Victoria Street Newz

April/May 06

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Vol. 2 No. 6

Resistance is Fertile

My Mission Lives On

Submitted by Tre Arrow

God's Valley, Oregon Coast, October 6th, 2001.

I am high in a treetop. The night is cool and damp. The sky is dark. Grandmother moon is waning, not yet high enough to light up the night. I am exhausted! For almost 48 hours I have endured hostility, intimidation and threats at the hands of Oregon Sheriffs, loggers, and government officials. They've used weapons in an attempt to scare me out of this tree. They've beamed high-powered lights on me and blasted music, sirens and bullhorns throughout the past two nights as part of a sleep-deprivation strategy.

I pass out! My memory recalls my left arm reaching frantically for a branch as my feet fly over my head. The next thing I remember is coming to consciousness with a flashlight blinding my eyes and laughter and insults filling my ears. The Sheriffs are gathered around me as I lay on the ground. My body is throbbing in excruciating pain! My left shoulder is dislocated and screaming for relief!

I almost died that night. I fell more than twenty-five metres to the ground. I suffered life-threatening injuries, yet less than a week later I walked out of the hospital and recovered at a quaint, comfortable abode. I feel I was saved by the spirits, by the trees and by our Earth Mother! It wasn't time for me to leave this plane. I still had things to accomplish.

Less than a year later I was on the run from the F.B.I., living underground but not out of sight. During the twenty months I traveled throughout Canada, there were many times I could have been arrested. On one occasion, while in Halifax protesting Bush's resurgence of terrorism in Iraq, many of my friends and fellow peaceful activists were arrested. As I stood in the middle of the road, men and women all around me were attacked, assaulted, and tasered by the Halifax police. I could've easily been one of those arrested that day.

When I was arrested on March13, 2004, I still had things to accomplish! I had a mission to help heal this wounded planet and its people, through education, peaceful actions and teaching by example. I volunteered with several peaceful grassroots organizations throughout Canada. I was active with the group 'Food Not Bombs', feeding free healthy meals to the communities I visited. In Victoria, I'd found a large amount of locked dumpsters containing perfectly edible food. The bolt cutters were for unlocking those dumpsters.

I find it interesting and saddening how the U.S. and Canadian governments decide what is legal and illegal, and what our societies deem is acceptable and unacceptable. It's illegal to walk out of a store wth a pair of bolt cutters without paying for them, but it's legal for Canadian Tire executives to steal the materials from Earth Mother used to manufacture those bolt cutters. It's illegal to reclaim food and supplies from a dumpster, but it's perfectly fine to dump precious usable goods into landfills while millions around the world starve to death. It's acceptable to let the poor die while living outside in the winter (even here in the province's capital), but it is unacceptable to challenge these laws. Those who do so and those who strive for the rights of the poor are imprisoned. It's legal to pillage and ravage our Earth Mother but it's a crime to burn an inanimate object which contributes to this desecration of the sacred, ancient forests.

> As long as I am breathing, as long as I can use my words and whatever actions I can generate, whether I am incarcerated or not, I will live by these truths: That life is sacred. That we have a responsibility to respect and protect this planet and all its inhabitants. That the quest for power and wealth is not the way to achieve happiness.

The war on the poor is acceptable violence! The ravaging of our Earth Mother is acceptable violence! The abuse and murder of our non-humyn animal friends is acceptable violence. However, challenging the power structure and trying to stop the corporations and governments from committing these injustices is illegal. It's a crime to dissent!

So here I sit in a prison, incarcerated for more that 2 years because I have used my voice and body to challenge this power structure. A power structure that places property, power and profit above the sacredness of the planet and its people. Simply discussing and pointing out these problems and injustices isn't enough. We need solutions!!

Awareness without action is futile. We have to help educate, inspire and bring about an increased awareness toward the real injustices around us, and we have to take action. The institutions in our culture deem humyn life and humyn activity more important than any other. This is a grave misconception. We are a part of nature, not outside or above it. We are but one thread in this amazing and intricate web of life. Our intelligence does not give us the right to dominate, exploit, and oppress just because we have the power to do so. We have been lied to. We have been led astray. We have been disconnected from our Earth Mother, from our roots and from our ancestors. We have been programmed and conditioned to believe there is only one way to live. We are embedded in a system of consumerism and material acquisition which places value and importance in unhallowed objects and ambitions. We have lost touch with the sacred things in our lives.

But there is a way back. We can unravel this conditioning and programming. We can open ourselves to the beauty and truth and allow it to flow into us. If we are not governed by fear, if we take a stand we feel passion towards, then we can effect positive change in our lives and in this world. If we do things which bring us joy, if we follow our hearts, then we can create a world free of oppression and greed where everyone and everything is honoured and respected. If we do not turn a blind eye, if we do not take an apathetic view to the injustices abounding among us,

About Street Newz

"Building Bridges within our Downtown Community"

The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for $.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like the sliding-scale method of donations because it offers folks a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, and by reading information that informs you directly about poverty and homeless issues. Please consider purchasing another copy later in the month, for a friend.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (for confirmation), and may be edited for length.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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then it will be harder for those in power to continue the "acceptable" violence. If we spend more time in nature, if we reconnect with this precious planet, then we will realize the magic and sanctity which flow through every living creature. The more we witness the beauty of natural places, the stronger the importance of preservation becomes.

As long as I am breathing, as long as I can use my words and whatever actions I can generate, whether I am incarcerated or not, I will live by these truths: That life is sacred. That we have a responsibility to respect and protect this planet and all its inhabitants. That the quest for power and wealth is not the way to achieve happiness.

I will do what I can to take a stand and oppose the injustices toward this planet and its creatures. I will continue to be a voice for those voices which are commonly ignored. The powers that be can trap my body, but they will never stop my spirit, passion, and words from reaching the hearts and minds of the world. My mission lives on! Won't you join me? If not now, then when? If not you, then who?

Tre is currently being held at the Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC). For more information please visit: www.trearrow.org.

To write or visit Tre Arrow in person:

CS #05850722
Vancouver Island Regional
Correction Center
4216 Wilkinson Rd.
Victoria, BC V8Z 5B2
CANADA
tele: (250) 953-4400

The visit line number is 250-953-4433

Calling all writers!

A group of us from across Canada are gathering material for a zine about Tre Arrow. We're looking mostly for personal stories from people whose lives have been in any way connected with his. We want to put together something that shows his character and how his actions and commitments have affected people. Basically any stories people want to tell about him, like maybe you met him hitchhiking somewhere, or at a Food Not Bombs serving, or did tree-sits with him, or...anything. Even if you've never met him but have been inspired in some way by his life, that's great too. It's all part ofthe story.

Please send contributions to treetop@riseup.net. Anonymous submissions are fine. The sooner we get stuff the better, but this will be an ongoing project so no rush. Please send contributions to: treetop@riseup.net

Cash Only Please

I have a question: What's wrong with cash? It never bounces, there is no magnetic strip to wear out or malfunction and you don't need I.D. or electricity to use it.

About eight years ago I liberated myself from one of the most profitable institutions on the planet: I closed all my bank accounts. The straw that broke this camel's back was when the bank decided to hold onto my disability cheque for a week. It did not seem to matter that it was a guaranteed government cheque, nor did it matter that I had been a customer for 27 years. What mattered was that as a customer, I paid the bank to hold onto my money and they had the means to do just that.

For those of us living cheque to cheque, waiting an extra week for my money was quite disruptive. I ended up having to beg for a "crisis grant" from social services. When the bank finally released my money, I emptied my account and cut up my green card on the spot.

Now I am able to go to ANY bank to cash my cheque and with no service fees, I am saving a bit of money. Banks cater to folks with money. The smaller your balance (the poorer you are), the more service fees you pay. The larger your balance (the richer you are), the more likely banks are to waive service fees altogether. Can you see what's wrong with this?

I'll tell you what else is wrong. When I last moved I had over a dozen prospective landlords turn me away simply because I did not have a bank account. Providing proof of income didn't matter. Having exemplary letters of reference from previous landlords didn't help much either. It seems that preferring a cash-only lifestyle implies criminal involvement. As a responsible adult with an impeccable resident history (and no criminal record!), I take great offence to this assumption.

When I tried to pay my phone bill in person with cash, I was told that the phone company doesn't accept cash. Neither does B.C. Hydro. Who doesn't recognize cash as legal tendar?

Some people don't believe in living beyond their means so they chose not to have credit cards. Some people don't believe in wasting paper or energy so they chose to deal in cash only. Others may have privacy issues and are opposed to leaving unnecessary paper trails behind them. And some folks are just so poor they really can't afford to pay a bank to "look after" their limited funds.

As far as I know, there is no law that states we must have a bank account. It is discriminatory to penalize and inconvenience cash-only folks.

Crime is going to happen regardless of who decides to use banking institutions or not. I suggest that those people whose only income is a monthly government cheque to invest in proper I.D. and do as I did. I cannot tell you how much better I am treated in EVERY bank I go to than I was ever treated as a paying customer. The fact is, some "services" are just not worth buying into.

Submitted by cyann ray

Thank you for picking up this paper! Would you like to know how you can further help the Victoria Street Newz?

Here are some ideas: introduce us to your friends; encourage them to support the Street Newz vendors; bring us (to 1027 Pandora St.) used 8 1/2 x 11 envelopes or old bus passes (they're good for one free visit at a recreational facility) or pennies you can't be bothered to roll up or unused stamps with odd amounts ; donate to our coffee/tea fund at the Solstice Café; offer our injured vendors a free or cheap massage or adjustment or physio; establish a sliding scale for the services you offer so low and no-income people can enjoy them too; encourage your municipality to join the CRD's housing affordability project; write to MLAs and MPs and tell them how you feel about conditions on the street; learn about the environmental and real economic implications of the dominant economic structure…..

The Flip Side

DisAbled Women's Network Ontario (DAWN Ontario)
(dawn.thot.net/social_assistance_rates.html)

Statistics Comparing Basic Social Assistance Rates in Canada
Estimated 2002 Annual Basic Social Assistance Income by Type of Household

Province/ Territory	Single Employable	Person with a Disability	Single Parent, One Child	Couple, Two Children
British Columbia	$6,166	$9,437	$10,300	$12,253
Alberta	$4,764	$6,384	$8,505	$12,678
Saskatchewan	$5,808	$7,416	$9,036	$12,192
Manitoba	$5,352	$7,157	$9,636	$12,849
Ontario	$6,240	$11,160	$10,210	$12,223
Quebec	$6,444	$9,312	$8,712	$10,939
New Brunswick	$3,168	$6,696	$8,772	$9,828
Nova Scotia	$4,980	$8,580	$8,760	$11,520
Prince Edward Island	$5,757	$7,602	$9,814	$14,473
Newfoundland/ Labrador	$3,048	$7,140	$11,436	$11,916
Yukon	$11,990	$11,990	$15,816	$12,253
Northwest Territories	$11,490	$14,830	$18,050	$23,036
Nunavut	$10,148	$12,288	$24,802	$28,431

Think About This: Please, Just Give it Some Thought

You must be familiar with U2's Bono travelling the world in his valiant attempt to end poverty. But when one scans the above statistics, it quickly becomes obvious that there is no intent to even begin to address wealth disparity in our wealthy country, let alone the world. CBC reported today (February 28,2006) that the Alberta provincial surplus is only slightly less than the federal government's surplus, standing at about seven point four billion dollars. As you read the above statistics, did you notice that Alberta has the third lowest Social Assistance rates in the country, and that it barely surpasses either Newfoundland/Labrador or New Brunswick? Ontario gives a family of four $2,013.00 more than a single parent with one child. It borders on absurdity when you realize that Nunavut gives more than twice as much as does BC for a family of four: (Nun. – BC: $28,431 – 12,253 = $16,178.00)

Do you think the general population really understands that a Social Assistance recipient on the Welfare-to-Work Plan in BC receives a maximum of $510.00 per month, and that $325.00 of that sum goes directly to the landlord for rent. If a recipient can find accommodation for a lower rate than $325.00 in order to attempt to add a slight increase to their purchasing power, that difference is then clawed back by the provincial government, even if that sum were to be one dollar. In BC, a welfare-to-work Canadian citizen actually receives two thousand two hundred and twenty dollars ($2,220.00) to cover all expenses for an entire year. In Canada! Where "You're richer than you think," according to one financial institution. That's what I mean when I say that in a predominantly Christian nation, as are all G8 nations, "if you don't work, you don't eat." That's Calvinist dogma at it's worst - the contempt of the church made manifest.

Do you think the general population even begins to understand that government and business need a substantial unemployed population, competing for a limited number of jobs in order to suppress wages for the benefit of stockholders? Do you think that our population is cognizant that there has been an average of 7.5% unemployment in this country for the past forty years? The people change, but the number barely fluctuate, and this number includes only people who have qualified for employment insurance. Currently, Canada has an unemployed populace of about 6.7% for adults and 20% for youth, but that number does not consider anyone on social assistance, or anyone who does not qualify for either employment insurance or social assistance. A person living on the street in Canada is not counted as unemployed. Is it I or is that not absolutely absurd?

Do you think that people who suggest that welfare recipients should go out and flip burgers really understand that there are 1.5 – 2.0 million unemployed Canadians, and that there just are not enough Harvey's and Wendy's Restaurants in Canada to employ all the unemployed? Do you think that Canadians, in general, appreciate that the Canadian economy created 34,000 full time jobs in December, and that if we filled every one of those positions in a single day, there would still be 1.5 – 2.0 million unemployed people in this country? Do you ever wonder whether people, in general, even know that there are between eighty-five and one hundred million unemployed people in the G8? Do you think that people comprehend that this current Keynesian economic model actually works for less than 1/4 of the world's population?

Considering how imperceptive people tend to think about and treat people on assistance, do you think that it ever occurs to them that people on social assistance find work and careers, and people that had jobs end up on social assistance? The number varies little, but the people change places. Can people actually be so obtuse or oblivious as to be unable to grasp such simple concepts?

Submitted by George Simich, theflip.side@hotmail.com

Save The Seals

In late March, the world will be watching as Canadian fishermen begin the largest commercial slaughter of marine mammals in the world on the ice off Newfoundland and Labrador. If the hunt is anything like last year's, more than 300,000 baby seals will be clubbed or shot to death for their fur -- some of them as young as 12 days of age. Footage taken during the 2005 hunt was appalling: Pups were left to choke on their own blood for up to 90 minutes and were cut open as they struggled. It's no surprise that there has been an international backlash against the hunt.

An ongoing boycott of Canadian seafood products is already jeopardizing the primary income of fishermen. More than 220,000 individuals have already pledged to boycott Canadian seafood, and more are joining the boycott every day. Please take action to protect Canada's fishing industry and international reputation. End a cruel hunt that brings in little money and inflicts such pain to so many baby seals.

Thank you, www.thepetitionsite.co, care2.com

Tent City Update

Irene Faulkner and Cathie Boies Parker, the lawyers working on the Cridge Park Tent City case, are finalizing their Statement of Defense to send to the City's lawyers so that the Charter challenge to the anti-camping by-law can move ahead.

They have some great affidavits from many of the campers – but they need to be updated.

So, if you worked on an affidavit for the case, please give Cathie or Irene a call and let them know what you're up to.

They would also like to hear from anyone else who was at the Tent City and wants to be part of the challenge. or who just wants to help. Cathie and Irene can be reached at 380-2788.

Although he can't promise to print everyone's story, Andrew MacLeod, at Monday Magazine would like to hear from you if you're experiencing challenges with officials because of your

- binning activities or

- homelessness and 'vagrancy'

Andrew's phone number at Monday Magazine is 382-6188, ext 136

Denise Savoie, federal NDP Member of Parliament, spoke to the March 18th Peace Rally. Denise is encouraging a public debate in Parliament about Canada's changing role in Afghanistan.

waddaya think ?!?

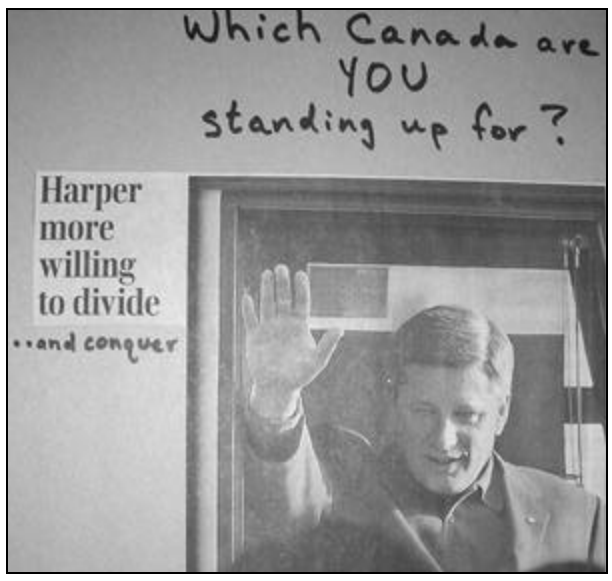
Grandad's MADD

To the editor of Street Newz and citizens of Victoria:

I am doing my best with the help of MADD Canada and similar Canadian-wide organizations to ban the sale of cold takeout alcohol drinks. Drinking while driving or as a passenger in an auto is very dangerous and leads to much family misery. Would you please use your ability to get provincial government attention to adjust the liquor regulations.

We need to reduce accidents and discourage underage binge drinking.

Thank you, *Bob Ritchie*
a senior from Qualicum Beach



Let the Debate Begin!

Dear Editor

In a democratic country it is ludicrous for anyone to suggest that debating our military missions is somehow unsupportive of our troops. Our troops will be better off for any such debate. They will know that Canadians are thinking and caring about them and not blindly willing to send them into danger. We are a peacekeeping nation and we must make sure that all of our missions forward that agenda and no other.

What Peter Mackay is doing is introducing American style political slurs into Canada and if this is what he represents I suggest he go get a job with George Bush. I say Bravo Jack Layton, once again a federal NDP leader takes a stand for peace and common sense and for the safety of those who put their lives on the line trusting that we will not waste those lives.

Let the debate begin.

Sue Stroud - sue_stroud@hotmail.com

Abomination

I predict that in the near future there is going to be a great upheaval of sexual immorality in all of the countries of this world. And as this trend continues into the twenty-first century, many will be devoured by their own lustful fornications. Then as these people try to quench their unnatural sexual desires they will be lead astray into the darkest of evil places. Where truth, honour and loyalty are no more and where marriage is nothing more than an excuse to justify and continue in their immoral deviant lustful behaviour. Where love is only measured in the number of orgasms they have and the states of ecstasy they experience. Where most families and children are thrown by the way side in favour of greed and quick self gratification. Which over a period of time will leave them lost and blinded to the one real truth that could one day set them free.

R.R. French

The real mass media are basically trying to divert people ... let everybody be crazed about professional sports or sex scandals."

Noam Chomsky

'Affordable' Housing?

To the Editor

When is Housing actually affordable? While we assume that all Housing, no matter how affordable, is social, obviously it is only affordable when it can be paid for - that is when there is sufficient income available to pay for it. Obviously, there is a significant segment of our society where this is not the case - no income. Isn't this the main issue? - not the cost of construction. And this is taking place in a country proud of its Charter of Human Rights and in many ways, inoperative. Truly, Affordable Housing is very close to the bottom of the country's list of priorities. Why? - if only a political choice, could we not change the politics?

From a related point of view, for those with a socially democratic agenda, these are amazing times as we see the political changes in more and more formally oppressed South American nations standing up against US free market hegemony. In spite of CIA interference, this success is being achieved through democratic process - the poor are standing up to be counted. If a continent can do this, then so also could a country—Canada?

It is sad to say but many of us are poor, obviously, some more than others - many beyond the pale. It has been pointed out that a high percentage of the poor do not vote. They are most likely preoccupied with trying to keep their lives together and have little sense of being able to make a difference, anyway.

As is being demonstrated in South America but not yet recognized in Canada, the poor and disenfranchised represent a potent political force that if rallied could, for instance, move the subject of Housing up the priority scale. A Party of the Dispossessed could begin to respond to our Charter's fundamental goals, so far ignored, to a great extent.

Roger W. Smeeth

Remembering Mike

I would like to know if it would be possible to submit an article and obituary about my brother Mike Cain.

Mike was very, very well known on the "street" in the downtown area of Victoria. Many 'street' people, including Ken (Street News sales at Douglas & Yates), have known Mike (& Doe) for decades. Mike knew the hardest side of street life and he had a particular respect for the local community services workers who had helped him such as A.V.I., Rev. Al, Open Door, the 9-10 Club, Shoppers Drug Mart Pharmacy, etc. Mike died of cancer in Victoria Hospice, 10:45, Tuesday, Jan., 10, 2006.

He will be missed by many people.

Thank you.
Danny Cain

Our Own 'Disappeared'

From my experience of working with people in social difficulties in Victoria I have come to fear that we have evolved our own system of the 'disappeared' no less lethal than in some South American countries.

Our Disappeared are those struck off the welfare lists. How many of these are now employed? How many just eke out a miserable existence on the streets with no visible means of support?

In the last few years over 100,000 people have been struck off assistance and six thousand people have died even while receiving welfare. Why? Were they not able to sustain themselves on that meagre handout? Did they receive adequate medical and dental care? Or did their soul-sapping poverty simply overcome their will to live?

Unfortunately, our government considers this vital information not even worth investigating. It does not know what has happened to our Disappeared. It is uncomfortably manifest to me that those of us who care must inform ourselves. We must press for a change of social attitudes and government policies away from indifference towards compassion.

Do not let us imagine 'it can never happen to me'. It is a mere change of the wind direction away for all of us.

Marcia Williams
President, Victoria Neighbours Society
neighbours@telus.net
http://www.bcfaithinaction.ca/index.php?indexighbours

Charity Is Not Enough

The British Columbia budget is a well crafted illusion that looks good only from inside the Legislature or through the eyes of the prosperous. But the less fortunate in our society look at it from the outside.

Faith In Action is a Victoria multi-faith coalition of concerned congregations and spiritually-motivated individuals. Our members provide emergency services to people who are experiencing hard times. We run the food banks, the soup kitchens, the night shelters, the street ministries and more.

While the government describes a booming economy, our resources are straining at the seams to meet the ever-increasing demand for our help. The rising tide of homelessness, addiction, petty crime and desperation that we try to mitigate through charity is rooted in government policy. The social safety net has been largely dismantled. The welfare system is unwelcoming, punitive, secretive, and extremely difficult to navigate. The number of people receiving social assistance has been cut in half in the last five years, more by preventing people getting onto the system than by moving them off to steady employment. Formerly effective help agencies have lost public funding and are unable to meet the increasing demand. Even the official avenues of redress (Employment and Assistance Tribunal, Ombudsman, and Auditor General) have been rendered less effective through reorganisation and budget cuts.

Faith communities are being asked to provide basic life support to people in need. We were never consulted by government about this abrogation of its responsibility. We do not agree that basic and emergency support should be a voluntary charitable act at the whim of a donor's generosity. It should be a public service, supported by all of us through taxes.

If you are on the "inside" of the economy and several steps away from need, none of this may worry you. Perhaps you think that the social safety net is still there, should you need it. You would be wrong. The minor tweaks to income assistance in the Budget speech are not enough. We appeal to everyone to join with us to demand that the B.C. government review its entire approach to social assistance.

Please visit our Web site at www.bcfaithinaction.ca to learn more and to share your concerns with us.

Kathleen Gibson
Co-ordinator, Faith in Action

If you find yourself published in the Street Newz, and would like some free copies to send to your family and/or friends, please contact us at streetnewz@islandnet.com or 413-3235 or leave a note in our mailbox at 1027 Pandora. If you're not published, why not? Send us your ideas, poems, photography...

Our Place Drop-In Center Settling Into New Home

After months of pounding the pavement looking for a temporary home for the Our Place Society drop-in center, Reverend Al Tysick's prayers were answered when a deal was struck late last year with AIDS Vancouver Island and Victoria Cool Aid Society to lease space in their newly purchased building at 713 Johnson Street. Ending a search that included investigating more than forty different locations and being shut-out for reasons ranging from high monthly rents, to zoning restrictions, to "the drop-dead look of horror in landlords' eyes" (Times Colonist, Nov. 18, A18, 2005) who were fearful of working with an organization serving street-people, the temporary home looks to be a good fit while construction of the new Our Place building Pandora Street continues.

However, not everyone has perceived the temporary Johnson Street location of the Our Place drop-in center as a blessing. Some neighboring retailers have had concerns that the drop-in centre would hurt their sales. One business owner felt driven out of the 700-block of Johnson Street because he believed the safety of his customers was in jeopardy and that the area would deteriorate.

Over the past several weeks since the Society's January move, several of the fears and unsupportive attitudes originally held about the drop-in center have shifted. This is, in part, due to the implementation of the Our Place 'Good Neighbour Policy'. This policy includes bi-weekly meetings with businesses and community representatives in the vicinity, two additional security staff, modified hours, a client smoking-area located in a courtyard to the rear of the building mitigating curbside crowds and an increase in police patrols. In a recent letter to the editor, one business-owner commented, "My thanks to the Open Door [Our Place] for keeping up their end of the Good Neighbour Policy. Concerns regarding the new location … have proven unfounded." (Times Colonist, Jan. 26, A13, 2006)

While Our Place realizes that problems can and do occur at the drop-in center from time to time, we are committed to being a responsible resident of Johnson Street. Likewise, we are also committed to our efforts of building a stronger and healthier community through our work assisting people experiencing homelessness and poverty. Just as we will continue to build good relationships and understanding with our neighbours along Johnson Street, we also continue in our work to build relationships and understanding with our clients. Some of the challenges, stigmas and exclusion we encountered as an organization trying to find a new home are issues our clients deal with personally each day. It is our aim, at Our Place, to continue to build bridges in our community and to work on the causes and symptoms of homelessness and poverty, so that we all have a place where we feel welcome and safe.

Submitted by Suzanne Jackson - Community Liaison , Our Place
communityliaison@victoriaourplace.org

Reverend Al conducts many life celebrations for street folk including, recently, Tracee Ann Riches who died in police custody.

CFAX Talks It Over

Letter sent to Professor Ron Cheffins, C/O "Talk It Over," CFAX Radio

Dear Prof. Cheffins,

Just a brief note as "Victoria Street Newz" publisher Janine Bandcroft and I would like to thank you for reporting on your show the results of our public opinion poll for the Victoria federal riding, which was published in our October/ November edition.

We are, of course, very pleased that our poll results turned out to be quite accurate, as indicated in the following numbers:

Candidate	"Street Newz" Poll	Election Result
Denise Savoie (New Democrat)	39%	38.5%
David Mulroney (Liberal)	27.5%	27.5%
Robin Baird (Conservative)	24%	24.6%
Ariel Lade (Green)	7.5%	8.1%
Others	2.0%	1.3%

Our poll projected, based on an anticipated turnout of 60,000 voters, that Savoie would win by 6,900 votes. Her actual victory margin, with 61,985 people voting, was 6,787 votes.

Thank you again for reporting our poll results and also for the very kind comments you made about our paper. We will continue to pass along to you copies of any future polls we carry out.

With very best wishes,
Gordon Pollard

WE ARE NOT ANIMALS! TOO BAD!

Did you know that poor people are treated worse than animals in British Columbia? People receiving welfare in this province are being treated in a way that would get an animal owner charged with an offense if he or she treated their cow in the same fashion. It is true! The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendments Act, 1994 makes it clear.

According to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendments Act, 1994, section 1 (2) states that: "for the purposes of this Act, an animal is in distress if it is (a) deprived of adequate food, water or shelter,"...

Furthermore, according to section 14 of the Act subsection (1) "A person responsible for an animal, who causes or permits the animal to be or to continue to be in distress commits an offense".

People in BC are being deprived of adequate food and shelter all the time. Many people are found ineligible for welfare or for disability allowances. When these people cannot find jobs and have no income whatsoever, they obviously don't have adequate housing AND/OR food. Even if they do qualify for welfare they are in distress because they still cannot afford adequate housing AND food.

When the Government refuses to provide people with money enough to obtain adequate housing AND food it is not charged with an offense. I think this is outrageous. If it treated an animal in this manner it would be guilty of an offense. What does this mean about the priorities of this government?

Yes, many people in BC are in distress because they lack adequate food and shelter. Yet they are blamed for their circumstance as if it were a crime. Furthermore, they are punished for being poor as if it were a crime. They are made to jump through hoops, prove they have made a certain amount of money over the two years previous to applying for inadequate welfare and made wait three weeks before even being able to apply.

After they get on welfare they are taxed at a rate of 100% on any money they earn over and above the inadequate welfare. Therefore the government is making sure they stay in even worse distress than they might otherwise suffer.

This, in my view, is cruel treatment.

I used to think that all we had to do to end this cruelty was to vote in a government that would not be cruel. That did not work. We had the NDP in power and the cruelty continued. It has gotten worse since the Liberals took over, but that does not excuse the NDP; nor does it do anything but prove me wrong in my assumption that all we had to do was elect a government that would not be cruel.

Now I think we are going to have to take another tack. Poor people are going to have to organize ourselves and our allies into a non-partisan voting block and vote members into the legislature that will do what we tell them and stop being cruel. It won't matter what party they are in or what party forms the government because we will own the members in the legislature no matter what party they belong to.

I know they will do what we say because they will lose their jobs in 18 months from the time they get them if they don't. Because we have recall in BC the 20% of the population that is poor and the 10% to 15% of the population that are our allies add up to 30 or 35 percent of the population, and we are very powerful. We can use recall effectively. We can make sure there is a general election in this province every year and a half until they get it right.

I think the Government should treat people as least as well as it treats animals. Don't you? I have been in the poverty movement for 40 years and nothing has changed much. Things have actually gotten worse over time. I think it is time for us to do something different.

We need to form a Crusade Against Poverty and demand an Adequate Income and quit whining for more like whipped animals. I am not an animal; but I want the same rights they have. I want the right to adequate food and shelter at the very least

Let us ask our allies, like the Churches, to help us form this Crusade Against Poverty. Let us get them to give us a place to meet and talk about this idea so we can create a politically powerful movement and finally get equal treatment to the family pet.

Submitted by W. Robert Arnold ©

Speaking for the Trees

Long-time heritage advocates, Councillor Pam Copley and Pat Wilson recently contributed to an article in the February 27th edition of the Times Colonist: Heritage on the line in Oak Bay.

The article discussed the need for heritage protection in Oak Bay. Since the article was published there have been several letters criticizing heritage protection and environmental preservation. The letters are pro-development and anti-heritage. If you feel passionate about preserving our community, letters of support for heritage, both built and environmental, can be sent to the editor of the Times Colonist (localnews@tc.canwest.com). If you require copies of the original article or the subsequent letters, please contact the Oak Bay Green Committee at: 370-7736

Canada Pension Clawback Plan?

We spoke a while back about me doing an article about Human Resources grabbing $1200 plus that C.P.P. sent me. Actually, C.P.P. didn't send it to me, they sent it to Human Resources because Human Resources forced me to sign a form that said that I would repay Human Resources for the benefits that they would be giving me that I qualified for. If I didn't sign I would receive zero benefits even though they accepted my application for said benefits and would thus put me out onto the street joining the growing ranks of the Victoria homeless.

Frank Dreisen

Editor's note: I spoke with another person collecting a disability pension, and she told me she received notice, just prior to her 60th birthday, informing her that CPP would be clawed back until she's 65. That's when she'll begin to receive her Old Age Pension. During the five years the pension money is clawed back, she'll be required to pay tax on the amount they keep.

Peace Testimony of the Religious Society of Friends

We actively oppose all that leads to violence among people and nations, and violence to other species and to our planet. Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust. We will struggle to remove the causes of impasse and confrontation by every means of nonviolent resistance available. We must start with our own hearts and minds. Together, let us reject the clamour of fear and listen to the whisperings of hope.

From *A Statement on Peace* issued by New Zealand Quakers, 1987

A Bug in Your Ear

Spring's here again, the time of year that celebrates new life. It is the time we slough off the cobwebs and mustiness of our long winter interior existence, and prepare for the real new year's beginning. For many, before getting out to witness and partake in nature's nascent recreation, it's first time to clean house.

We've been told, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," so how clean is clean enough for God?

Our post-industrial understanding of "cleanliness" requires the total erasure of dirty nature: No bugs, germs, or stains. For decades of householders, that has meant reaching for bleach; little that lives can withstand a good bleaching.

The Chlorine Chemical Council extols the virtue of modern bleach, invoking the ancient Egyptians, saying: "What Americans take for granted in terms of speed bleaching today was an arduous task that took days, even weeks to accomplish. And it all began with attention to the heavens, most especially the sun."

Today, a mere 5000 years after the Egyptians toiled weeks for whiter whites, we "Americans" can 'speed bleach' our house, clothes, and papyrus in a jiff. We no longer need pay attention to the heavens, because we know God loves clean.

But our piety has a price. Every day, billions of litres of chlorine enters our biosphere, eager to get to work scrubbing the world clean. That means death to organisms the Almighty may not have created merely to be rubbed out.

Reach for Unbleached is a B.C.-based organization educating citizens on the dangers of allowing chlorine's unfettered access into the environment, and suggesting alternatives to chlorine intensive products for consumers. You can check them out on the internet at: www.rfu.org, and contact them for more info. at: reach@rfu.org. Their mailing address is: Reach for Unbleached Box 39, Whaletown BC Canada V0P 1Z0

This Spring we can all clean a little less religiously, and where we do, employ a more eco-friendly solution. I'm sure God won't damn a little dirt.

Submitted by Chris Cook. Chris hosts Gorilla Radio, a weekly radio show Mondays 5-6 pm on CFUV radio 101.9 FM, 104.3 cable, live online at cfuv.uvic.ca and, with any luck, will soon (maybe) be seen on Shaw's 'The Daily.'

Asleep, Ilegally

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

My son David Arthur Johnston was sentenced to death for sleeping on a park bench! Would you believe it happened right here in Canada, in Victoria B.C. on March 1, 2005?

He committed no sin against God or against Man. His mission is to help make the world a better place, where people are kinder and move loving one to the other. He chose to live on the streets and with the other homeless who didn't pursue the material possessions of the world. He's set up a food dispensation system so hundreds of others can eat. He has no wallet or possessions, no extra coat or shoes. He preaches "Humility" and "Patience" and that "Pride" is a sin. That "Fear" is not possible. He does not use "Money".

Sound like someone you may have read about? David is not Jesus Christ but he is walking in his footsteps. Look what they did to "Christ". The actual sentence was 30 days in jail. David refuses to eat while in jail. I took time from work to fly and to visit him in the Wilkinson Road Correctional Center. I wanted to see him and talk to him in case he felt he had to die for standing for his convictions. He was put in segregation (Isolation) also known as the "Hole" for the first 17 days.

With great difficulty I finally was allowed to see him. We visited in a little cubicle, he was behind glass and we talked through phones. It was absolutely wonderful to see him, talk to him and look into his beautiful blue eyes. He was very thin, weak and sooo hungry. He went from 165 to 142 pounds. On his St Anne's update March 22, 2005 he said he was going back to sleep at St Annes March 28, 2005. This is the last I've heard.

Log on to David at hatrackman@yahoo.com

God bless you all
Lea Johnston (David's Mother)

Photos: 'George Bush' and 'Stephen Harper' at the Int'l Rally for Peace, March 18th 06 - the 3rd anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. 'Bush' encouraged the crowd to join in his quest for money, power, and control. 'Harper' didn't argue.

A mighty crowd also marched in Vancouver

Photo: stopwar.ca

Free at Last

Dear Victoria Street Newz

Re: Your Drug May Be Your Problem, submitted by Angela Bischoff

I was reading the article on Tooker Gomberg. I too am a victom of SSRI anti-depressants. I take Effexor 200mg a day for the last 10-11 months. It's like you hit me in the head with a cast iron frying pan when Angela mentioned "extreme agitation which is known as akathisia, an internal unrest, turmoil, or torture" and I'm going to add within one's own mind and soul.

You hit the nail on the head for me, that is exactly what I have been feeling for the last 10-11 months. I so, so much can relate to what Tooker Gomberg was feeling and thinking, it's like you cannot explain why you have this horrible feeling. You feel like you're going to go insane as you get no peace from the above. I have never been suicidal until recently. I'm not a drinker, but just to get a break from this madness I would find myself having a few beer which would help, but then heap more guilt upon myself for not being the strong independent non-anxious woman I used to be, as fear and anxiety became my masters.

Eventually it got to the point that I couldn't leave my apartment. Just functioning with normal day to day living became impossible for me since January of this year when I made an attempt on my life to escape the hell within. Thanks to a friend's advice I started treatments of acupuncture three times a week. Acupuncture has been 88% successful for me, but thanks to Angela Bischoff's article on Tooker Gomberg, who I so wish was able to hang on but also understand the utter agitation, the feeling of not wanting to be in your own skin, not understanding why you are feeling the way you are and the self-guilt that comes with it as I felt I was letting people down around me. I know now to get off the anti-depressants asap, I'm going to show my Doctor and Pharmacist your article.

I feel 99% of pharmaceutical drugs have some side effects, especially addiction or should I say dependency. It's not marijuana that leads to as they say "Hard Drugs," it's the painkiller, the opiates – either with codeine (which is harder to quit than heroin) or morphine which come from the poppy flower or the synthetic painkillers, opioids such as Percocet, Dilaudid Dereol are called. I speak from personal knowledge and wisdom as I was put on morphine by my Doctor because of a head on car accident, my doctor took me off before I was ready and the withdrawal was hell. I ended up at 38 years of age for 4 months a heroin addict and then for 3 ½ years they put me on a worse drug called methadone which was invented by Hitler's doctors as they ran out of morphine in WWII. Hitler was a morphine addict and a methamphetamine addict which his doctors also created.

I have been clean and off methadone four years now and I am now a humble drug and alcohol counselor instead of a self-righteous one like I was before. To really understand addiction you have to go to the "school of hard knocks" like I did. I thought I knew it all through textbook knowledge and that my ex-husband was a heroin addict. I knew absolutely nothing, I'm ashamed to say. But through the grace of God, here I stand, grateful and wiser.

Cindy

p.s. As of Feb 9 2006 I now am completely off all of my antidepressants. Today is Feb 15 2006 and I cannot express how much better I feel without the antidepressants. I feel free at last.

Jim & Janette (The Owl and the PussyCat), and Rejean jam at the Street Newz after the holidays party. Thanks to the Fernwood Community Association for providing the space, and to all the great folk who helped create an enjoyable evening.

The Owl and the PussyCat are available for parties, with a vast collection of traditional and original music. Email erkil@telus.net

www.
methwatch.ca

Meth Watch is a voluntary program that involves a variety of people at the community and state level, although retail involvement is the cornerstone ...

Jon Elmer reads the Street Newz!
fromoccupiedpalestine.org

Sukhi Lalli
Pharmaceutical Care Clinic

Acupuncture Drop-In Clinic

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday afternoons
2-4 pm
$10 per person per session

This drop-in group format is a part of the Sukhi Lalli Pharmaceutical Care Clinic's integrated approach to wellness.

The focus will be on stress relief, anxiety, pain management, and cravings from various addictive behaviours, but we are willing to tackle any other areas of health as needed.

For more information, or to sign up, please see Sukhi in the Pharmacy.
1139 Yates St.
(250) 386-5100 sukhilallipharmacist.com

According to The New York Times

Poverty in the U.S. has risen substantially since G.W. Bush became President, after declining under Bill Clinton.

In Washington, D.C., the number of babies who died before their first birthday amounted to 11.5 per thousand live births. In Beijing it was 4.6.

The U.S. ranks 43rd (!) in the world in infant mortality. If the U.S. could reach the level of Singapore almost 19,000 children's lives would be saved each year.

The U.S. ranks 84th in the world for measles immunizations and 89th for polio.

Of the 77 babies who die each day, on average 50 die needlessly because of poverty.

Mel Hurtig—melhurtig@shaw.ca

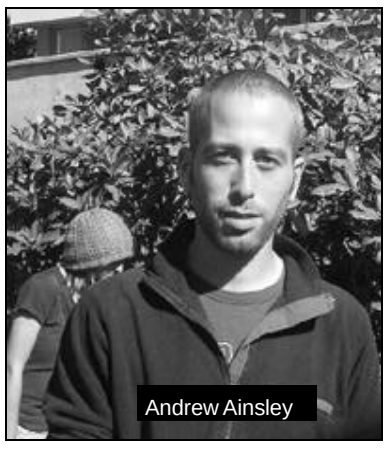
A Tale of Three Andrews

Copious amounts of edible food are daily deposited into the 'garbage' stream, and many street people are willing to search for it, reclaim it, and put it to use. They're called "dumpster divers," and they're subject to various forms of judgement, ridicule, and even arrest.

Dumpster divers are not filthy, rodent-like scavengers. They're a class of people all their own, each individuals, each with their own reasons for climbing into dumpsters. The ones I've met are thoughtful vegetarians, unable to find sufficient non-slaughterhouse products at the food banks and soup kitchens, and astonished that we live in a society where it's legal to throw edible food away and illegal to try and reclaim it.

I see their point - why is food sent to the landfill? If you look in your fridge and find a bruised apple, or lettuce that's beginning to wilt, do you throw it out? If you notice the expiry date on your yogurt or tofu has arrived, does it instantly become compost? Or do you smell it, taste it, and then decide?

Locking up 'garbage,' and hiring people to protect it, is common practice in the third world, and it's increasingly apparent in Victoria too. Shop owners claim that some divers leave a mess behind them, thereby justifying the need for security. Is collective punishment the best solution? Perhaps what's lacking is an understanding of the root causes of poverty, a sense of sympathy for those struggling to survive within it, and the will necessary to make changes that will eliminate poverty altogether or, at the very least, to show compassion - rather than abuse - for creative solutions, including dumpster diving.


Andrew Ainsley

One evening, filmmaker Andrew Ainsley parked his van across the street from dumpsters at Food Country in the Cook Street Village. He set up two cameras, and put a wireless microphone on a friend who was about to dive. Why? "A couple of days before, my friend had been harassed by security at the store, and I wanted to capture it on tape. I wanted to show people the sort of treatment that divers get," Andrew told me.

The security guards chose to call the local police. Two security guards, two police officers, and one dumpster diver were captured on tape. The second diver, the one with the wireless microphone, was still in the dumpster, unbeknownst to the security and police, when one cop twisted the diver's arm behind his back with such intent that it forced him to the ground. When the second diver appeared, he was told he would be treated in the same way. In response to the cop's request that any sharp objects be revealed, the second diver offered a knife from one of his pockets. The two divers and Andrew, the filmmaker, were arrested. Andrew's camera, and the film, was confiscated. The police didn't know about the second camera.

When Andrew called me, asking for advice about releasing the tape, I recommended we contact Andrew MacLeod at Monday Magazine. Andrew's a friend from University days, long ago, and he's written volumes about the welfare state and social services. I felt we could trust his interpretation of the story. The same day Monday hit the streets, the story was picked up by the A Channel news. The next day Stephen Andrew requested an interview with the filmmaker. I filmed the interview/interrogation Stephen Andrew conducted with Andrew the filmmaker, and we showed it to Chris Cook who posted his thoughts at PEJ.org.

Just to clarify - I'm not a journalist. I didn't sit in classrooms learning about ethics and standards and legalities. This newzpaper is the result of a quest for a different voice in the community, an alternative perspective from those who don't necessarily have access to the mainstream media, or control over how their stories are interpreted and fed to the masses. I fly by the seat of my pants, relying on my own good judgment and sense of professionalism, avoiding material that promotes hatred in any form, using common sense and, most importantly, treating people with respect. Socio-economic classism is a form of hatred and certainly won't be tolerated here. From my perspective the questions are: Why is edible food thrown in the garbage? Why are people having to sort through garbage to find the edible food? Why are some police officers, and some media, so mean to low and no-income people? Why does poverty and homelessness exist? What are the consequences of living in a society where people are valued, and judged, based on the size of their bank accounts or collections of material possessions? I'm not a journalist, but I believe these are crucial issues to discuss.

I know the diver who produced the knife when the police asked for it. In my experience, he's a very gentle soul. I've been on a diving expedition with him. It's astonishing, shameful really, the amount of edible food that's thrown into dumpsters. I understand why people are willing to salvage it - it's the right thing to do.

Let's stop blaming the victims. Andrew Ainsley has been charged with 'mischief, and accused of 'setting up' the police. Andrew didn't set anybody up. He set a camera up and caught, on film, an interaction that is becoming far too common. It's my understanding that citizens have every right to film in public places as long as we're not obstructing justice.

Andrew Ainsley is currently busy editing film that he's accumulated. If you'd like to support his work, he's at contact@loveandfearlessness.com or 250-588-3532 and his film is online at loveandfearlessness.com.

Submitted by Janine Bandcroft - streetnewz@islandnet.com

Some comments about the Dumpster Diving Arrest

From J: *i witnessed the broadcasts from last night, and the night before. the starkest contrasts exist between the two. wednesdays episode seemed pro-homeless in angle (which, as a dedicated watcher of a-channel nightly news, is most often the side they come down on). thursdays was a complete flip-flop. i think the cops must have exerted pressure, 'cause the difference was stunning. Stephen was acting like a North American media thug. as is always my course, i've spoken with them about what i percieved. i have no immediate, or obvious ties to the left or right agendas, so they can only view my emails as feedback.*

Stephen Andrew

From M: *I am from northern b.c., my family and I came to Edmonton for jobs, and for the first 3 years we lived in back alleys, right through the 3 winters, and we ended up getting a home for 1 year, and the home was not suitable for humanity, so the health board came in and condemned the house, and we relocated for another couple of months, and there was crack heads that lived in the basement of our new location, that also wasn't suitable for human beings to live there, so now we are back on the streets once again, my 17 year old is in the care of social services, cause I don't have a home, there are times that we don't have anything to eat for days, and our stomach hurts, cause there is no food, it's hard, sometimes nothing to look forward too, still we try to keep on going, hoping to get a home. I know what it's like to have to face the police, and be told to go sleep somewhere else, and to top it off, several of us got charged for trespassing, just cause we were trying to keep warm, have a good day*

From A: *Pretty efficient diver myself here in Edmonton. One question I would love to ask the powers that be regarding diving is concerning food banks... "Why do you give people low grade food, and throw out organic food?" Of all the places I like to dive, the food bank throws the most food by quite a long shot. A good diving website is www.dumpsterworld.com. The more I think about the police brutality the more I am thinking that it is pretty weird. Many divers provide cops with info that they often would otherwize do without, like the body found last? winter near the strathcona theatre group. I think every diver has thought about the inevitable time of finding a gun, or other such weapon that may have been involved in a murder. May the forest be with you.*

From G: *Budding politicians should be required to spend a month on the street (in winter) in order to run for whatever cushy government jobs the desire! Maybe a month every year...lest they forget! That would probably go a long way to eliminate any ignorance of the issue! The same experience would be suitable for "A" Channel news editors too! Hell...why not have everybody (ya know "the good people") do street time, part of the school curriculum? I'm working now and things are looking better but I will never forget and may never fully recover from my close encounter with poverty and our pathetic social safety net!*

From S: *Stephen Andrew needs to be really pressured by everyone. I'm afraid I'd have shot back with "well if you do know what poverty is like how can you twist a story like this?" So I think we need to do what FAIR does in the US. We need to send this story out to everyone and ask them to email, phone, write complaints in to the a channel and to Stephen Andrew himself. We have to combat these spins. We can't let the media help the public develop a kind of "it's their own fault" complacency on these issues. How about posting this story on PEJ and Indymedia and if it's okay with you I'd like to send it to FAIR to see if they would have ideas for us.*

From Allan: *One problem that I could understand is the health aspect: food in a dumpster could be contaminated with avian influenza virus and health authorities would fear that dumpster-diving might result in an epidemic. Assuming this event occurred in Edmonton, another aspect could be how the political ramifications might go in a Province which has just thrown more than $1 billion to the wind but cannot find a way to feed, clothe, and house indigent people.*

From Rita: *This incessant criminalizing of poverty is unconscionable. It is absolutely astounding how all these so-called brilliant minds in authority cannot come up with any solution other than to punish. Government is willing to spend extra millions to hire cops to punish the impoverished, yet unwilling to focus on real, lasting and humane solutions. Such a mind set is impossible to fathom. May I suggest Janine, if you have time, to please contact, in writing, NDP MLA and Opposition Housing Critic, Doug Routley and copy his Assistant Mr. Laurie Gourlay with this information. Doug is passionate about the homelessness and lack of adequate and affordable housing issues in this province and works diligently for the poor. Doug Routley's email address: doug.routley.mla@leg.bc.ca. Laurie Gourlay's email address: laurie.gourlay@leg.bc.ca I'm also wondering if the grocery store that pours bleach over the waste food could be contacted with the request that alternative uses for waste food be considered... such as recycling? or pouring hydrogen peroxide on instead of bleach? or proper sorting for food bank use? or some other form of human behaviour containing the word compassion?*

From T: *could not andrew sue the police for stealing his property? Not only was the camera his property, but the film was also his property. For the police to utilize this film on a CORPORATE channel would give him the right to sue for property theft. It was not the channels property, and therefore it was stolen to be used for personal gain (the news makes money as it is a corporation.) Andrew could make some serious coin off this if he hired a good lawyer. Also those cops might get away with it, but as they were the ones selling stolen property, they would probably have to pay something money-like for it as well. Don't you think?*

From O: *the bc civil liberties association has information on how to deal with someone accusing a person of breaking the panhandling law. i know that they are quite concerned about abuse of the most vulnerable people in our society by police. sometimes they will intervene legally when a case is somewhat precedent setting. for their contact info, check out www.bccla.org. btw, they are a volunteer organization, and depend on memberships, donations, etc., to survive.*

Earth Day, 2006 - It's our 25th Anniversary!

This April 22nd we will be gathering for our 25th Earth Day Celebration! With your help this special day in Victoria will be a great day, celebrating our love for this planet.

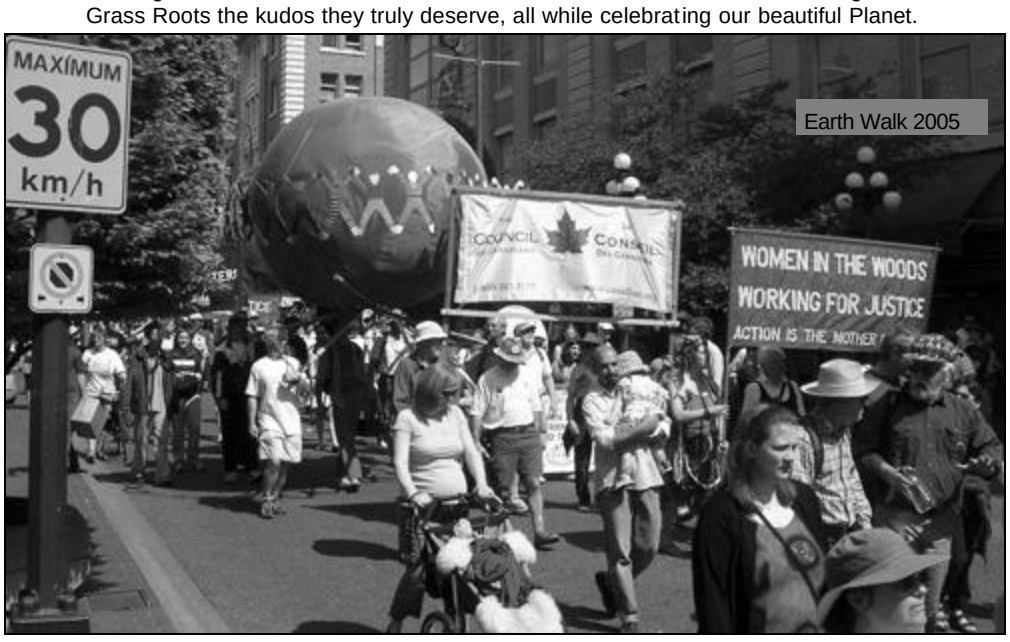
This year to mark our 25th Anniversary we are initiating a Cultural Community Art Project. We are inviting the groups that participate in the Earth Walk to create a "Peace Tile," which in turn will be used to create a large mosaic. The Peace Mosaic will be displayed somewhere public and will be available for all to see. If you are associated with a group that champions a facet of our society for the benefit of all then you should encourage your group to participate in this great Community Mosaic.

On Saturday April 22nd starting at noon there will be a terrific opportunity to meet and share ideas with very progressive people. The Earth Walk will go as it usually does starting in Centennial Square around noon and then parading down Government Street. The crowd of progressively minded and concerned citizens gets to the Legislature around 1:00 where all your information tables and a sound stage are ready and waiting to educate and entertain. This has been a very successful event with record crowds numbering close to 10 thousand. So you can see it would be a great opportunity to come and help raise your banners and demonstrate your commitment to this planet and to our community.

We all love this planet and want to help care for it.

We are inviting you and your neighbours to help make this year's celebration one to remember! We need volunteers to come forward and donations to roll in. Most importantly, we need you to share this message and to encourage your friends and neighbours to join us in the Walk and on the Legislature lawns this year. And if you are involved in an organization that may be interested in participating please be sure to e-mail me at greens@SteveFilipovic.ca and I will help in any way I can.

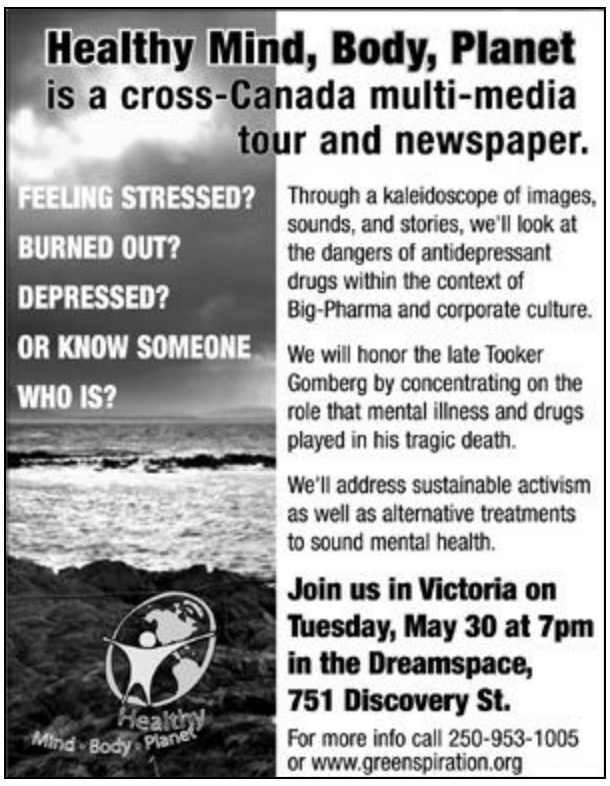
The Earth Walk starts at 12 noon in Centennial Square on April 22nd - be there and bring your friends and neighbours. Let's make our 25th Annual Earth Walk a true success and give our Grass Roots the kudos they truly deserve, all while celebrating our beautiful Planet.



Earth Walk 2005

If you are able to help us with funds and would like a charitable donations receipt then make the cheque for $50 or more payable to "VIDEA." If this is not necessary then the "Earth Walk" will do just fine. Please send to: Earth Walk/Co Steve Filipovic, 6559 Oldfield Rd., Saanichton, BC V8M 1Y1

Thank you,
Steve Filipovic, Coordinator Earth Walk, 250-216-5903



Take ACTION to Conserve Nature

The David Suzuki Foundation has researched the 10 most effective ways we can help conserve nature and improve our quality of life.

Sign up and join thousands of people who are making a commitment to a better future.

Let's send a powerful message to our leaders that we want a clean, healthy Canada.

1. Reduce home energy use by 10%
2. Choose an energy-efficient home & appliances
3. Don't use pesticides
4. Eat meat-free meals one day a week
5. Buy locally grown and produced food
6. Choose a fuel-efficient vehicle
7. Walk, bike, carpool or take transit
8. Choose a home close to work or school
9. Support alternative transportation
10. Learn more and share with others

Sign up at www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Challenge/

Guaranteed Livable Income report release

Public Meeting: Saturday, April 29th
2:00 pm Victoria Event Centre
1415 Broad St., Victoria BC (Coast Salish Territory)
Everyone welcome

Solutions are urgently needed for People, Peace and the Planet. Find out why a Guaranteed Livable Income addresses all three. Digital slide show will highlight the findings of the Women's Economic Justice Project: benefits of Guaranteed Livable Income, why women would benefit, the costs of poverty, and the barriers & strategies to move this idea forward. Discussion follows.

Doors open at 1:00 to preview the report and to check out information tables with literature from Livable Income For Everyone and The World Owes You a Living and more.

Project funded by Status of Women Canada BC/Yukon Region

Call (250) 383-7322 for more information.
or Email: swag@pacificcoast.net
Website: http://pacificcoast.net/~swag/swcproject05.htm

9th Annual Corporate Golden Piggie Awards

Sunday, April 23rd
2:00 pm
Roxy Theatre

By Donation

An afternoon of fun, with skits and music.

Dress up, dress down, learn more than you want to know about what's going on in the corporate world.

Photo: 2005 Awards "Trickle Down" song

Dr. Deanna Geddo believes that dental health is a human right, and hopes that one day dental treatment will be part of Canada's Medicare.

photo courtesy Western Living Magazine

While we're waiting for that, Deanna is encouraging a Robin Hood type of exchange - with her wealthier patients sponsoring treatment for those less fortunate.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Deanna in the Yarrow Building at #404, 645 Fort St., or call 250-389-0669.

community calendar

Street Newz offers no guarantee that this info is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. For a free weekly list, email events@pej.ca

Mondays	Movie Monday by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - dolcla@islandnet.com
Alt. Mondays	Communities Solidarity Coalition - www.communities-solidarity.org, info@communities-solidarity.org
First Tuesdays	Documentary, Debate, Democracy! Open Cinema 7pm, Hermann's (753 View Street) Info: www.opencinema.ca, opencinema@shaw.ca
Third Tuesdays	Tell 'n Show 1415 Broad St. Info: www.tellnshow.ca or thetellnshow@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Victoria Bluegrass Association Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, $2 for players- all levels
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, $10, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
Wednesdays	Falun Gong faluninfo.net. Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone Fernwood. Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 free
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Peace Ambassadors needed to greet international visitors! Imagine: War Never Again
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. $3 bus fare reimbursed
Wednesdays	Café Spirituality Open Satsang: discussion, sharing, contemplation. 7 pm, JB Coffee & Books, 143 Menzies By donation or buy a coffee.
Wednesdays	Playback Theater: The Arts of Empathy & Culture-Jamming 50/50 Arts Collective, 6-9 Info: esther@muirhead.ca or www.playbacknet.org/interplay/journal.
2nd Thursdays	Council of Canadians Coffee Nights at the Solstice Café, 529 Pandora, 7-9 pm
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico, Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Sat Mornings	Sikh meditation-all welcome 6-7 am at Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society of Victoria (470 Cecelia Rd, Victoria, BC) Info: jindi@hotmail.com
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling - soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604. www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Saturdays	Tour of Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest, Ladysmith. Info: Jay, 250-245-5540 Directions: www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
Sat & Sun	Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 386-8805 free
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.
Sundays	Immigrant/Refugee Youth Group & Buddy Volunteers ICA-930 Balmoral, 1-3 pm Info: Suki-885-1310 or youth@icavictoria.org
Monthly	Faith in Action-a multi-faith coalition to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfaithinaction.ca
Monthly	Vancouver Island Vegetarian Associaton (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
All month	CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Ongoing	Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com, www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
to Apr 2nd	festival 06 at the Belfry: A Winter's Tale, 8 pm, 1291 Gladstone, Info: 250-385-6835, pr@belfry.bc.ca or www.belfry.bc.ca
to Apr 6th	Salmon Stories, Set 1: Dirge - Photographs by Peter Paul Harnisch McPherson Library Gallery at UVic 2006 Info: (250) 7216562 or maltwood.uvic.ca
Sat Apr 1st	Third Annual Fossil Fools Day Info: 415 558 9490 or mike@globalexchange.org or www.jumpstartford.com
Sat Apr 1st	First Annual Blessing of the Bikes, 1st Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 W. Saanich Rd Gates 11 am, Music and Food 12-2:30, Blessing at 2:30
Sun Apr 2nd	DreamSeed Community Action Gathering and Information Showcase 11:30am - 3:30pm , Vic Info: 472-5011 sarahwebb@fmgt.uvic.ca.
Apr 2-9th	Activist Week at Gulf Islands Film & Television School Info: www.GIFTSfilms.com, or 1.800.813.9993 or gifts@gulfislands.com
Weds Apr 5th	It's Getting Hot in Here – climate change workshop - UVic, Michele Pujol Room, 1-3 pm RSVP: uvsp.tdm.coordinator@gmail.com
Weds Apr 5th	UVic Sustainability Project AGM – UVic, Michele Pujol Room, 3-4 pm
Wed, Apr 5th	Conf: Out in the Open: Our Work, Our Process, Our Community 8:30-3:30 Ctrl Baptist Ch, 833 Pandora Info: coordinator@victoriaourplace.org or 388-3824.
Apr 5th	The Cutting Edge: The Spirit, Justice and Peace Series – Trafficking of Women 7-9 pm $15 Queenswood Ctr, 2494 Arbutus Info: 477-3822 or 381-3627
Apr 11-19th	Int'l Week of Grassroots Venezuela Solidarity Info www.ushov.org/content/view/32/33/ http://www.embavenez-us.org/ and www.venezuelanalysis.com.
Tues Apr 11th	Seminar on How To Start A Business In Canada - UVic Downtown 910 Government St.,9am-3pm. Info: lburley@icavictoria.org or 388-4728 ext.107 or 116
Weds Apr 12th	The Cutting Edge: Spirit, Justice and Peace Series – Non-Violence: A Way to Peace & Wholeness 7-9 pm Queenswood Ctr, Info: 477-3822 or 381-3627
Weds Apr 12th	David Suzuki: The Autobiography - Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 7:30 pm Info 595-4232
Sat Apr 15th	Storytelling Our Lives -Movement Workshop - for immigrant & ethnic women 1-4pm Free, childcare Info: 995-2659 ramonas@uvic.ca
Sat Apr 22nd	Strength in Community Awards 2006 – submission due date - for inspirational examples of individuals working to protect health of communities Info: Moira 250 370 9930 Ex 24 or mcampbell@dogwoodinitiative.org, www.dogwoodinitiative.org
Sat Apr 22nd	Earth Day !! Info: earthday.ca or page 9
Sat Apr 22nd	Storytelling Our Lives – Acting Workshop - for immigrant & ethnic women 1-4pm Free, childcare Info: 995-2659 ramonas@uvic.ca
Sun Apr 23rd	9th Annual Corporate Golden Piggy Awards - Roxy Theatre 2 pm By donation
Sat Apr 27th	Storytelling Our Lives – PUENTE Theatre & ICA presentation - Info: 995-2659 ramonas@uvic.ca
Apr 28-30th	The Commons Conference: An Academic-Community Event on Privatization and the Public Domain. Info: 250-415-8480, www.forumpublicdomain.ca
Sat Apr 29th	Guaranteed Livable Income report release – 1415 Broad St., 2 pm Info: (250) 383-7322 or swag@pacificcoast.net or pg 9.
Apr 30-May 4th	17th Int'l Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm - www.harmreduction2006.ca, 1 604 688 9655 ex. 2, info@harmreduction2006.ca
May 1st	Reflections on Water - Int'l Call for Submissions Info: Cineworks Ind. Filmmakers Soc., sarahmuff@cineworks.ca, 604-685-3841 or www.cineworks.ca
Sat May 13th	Our Journey Home: Tseycum Perspective Repatriation of First Nations' articles 6 pm, Winspear Centre, Sidney Info: 250 537-2744
Fri May 19th	Positive Behaviour Support in the Home Workshop – Info: www.actbc.ca Call ACT at 604-205-5467 or toll free at 1-866-939-5188
Sat May 20th	Night of Artists – local art for sale, music, a silent auction and food. Info: www.nightofartists.com
Mon May 22nd	Strength in Community Festival Info: Moira Campbell 250 370 9930 Ex 24 or mcampbell@dogwoodinitiative.org, www.dogwoodinitiative.org
May 24-27th	4th Annual Institute in Response-Based Practice - Re-Shaping Responses to Victims of Violent Crimes, Duncan Info: 250-701-0713 or awade@cityu.edu
Fri May 26th	How to save the world – God? Drugs? Revolution? McPherson Theatre Info: 604-251-1781 or alanclements1@compuserve.com or www.WorldDharma.com
May 28-31st	A Journey of the Past, Present and Future - Healing Our Spirit-10th Annual Aboriginal HIV/AIDS conf. Info: 1-866-745-8884 or www.healingourspirit.org
Tues May 30h	Healthy Mind, Body, Planet-A Multi-Media Tour, Tabloid and Documentary Info: Angela Bischoff–www.Greenspiration.org, 416-538-7413 or 416-603-3559
May 30-Jun 5th	Bike to Work Week! Info: www.biketoworkvictoria.ca, (250) 920-5775
May 31-Jun 2nd	Resist the Hemispheria 2006 Summit-Winnipeg Summit planned by North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO-www.nascocorridor.com)
June 3-9th	Cob Workshop – Construct a 230sqft cob workshop, with a building permit and an engineer. Info: www.eco-sense.ca, 250-478-2680
June 8-10th	BALLE 2006 Conference – Burlington VT – creating local living economies. Info: www.livingeconomies.org/events/conference06.
July 12-17th	2006 International Youth Summit on Sustainable Urban Transportation Info: www.youthsummit.ca.
June 15-17th	Conference: Gaining Ground Leadership Summit on Sustainable Urban Development - Laurel Pt Inn Info: www.gaininggroundsummit.com
June 19-23rd	World Urban Forum III Our Future: Sustainable Cities-Turning Ideas into Action Vancouver www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp
June 23-28th	World Peace Forum Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Info: Web: www.worldpeaceforum.ca, admin@worldpeaceforum.ca
June 25-27th	Int'l Peace Education Conference - BCTF Vancouver Info: www.worldpeaceforum.ca or 604-871-1865
Aug 4-7th	Filberg Festival, Comox – celebrating excellence in art, craft and music Info: www.filbergfestival.com, 250 334-9242, info@filbergfestival.com
Oct 20-22nd	Family Focus 2006 - Richmond. Info: www.familyfocusconference.com, info@familyfocusconference.com, 604-279-7057

Searching for Apple Mary

One of our readers is hopeful that the Street Newz might awaken the memory of Apple Mary, a character in a comic strip that emerged when "the Stock Market crash of October 1929 triggered the Great Depression of the 1930s. Martha Orr created Apple Mary in 1934 for the Publishers Syndicate and, though she soon evolved into Mary Worth, her origins were on the streets among the poor.

We'd love to find a collection of Apple Mary, and reprint them.

Can you help?

Our contact information is on page 2. Thanks.

Food Banks and Meals

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am–8pm, Sat 10am– 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am – 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring clean plastic containers for bowls, bags for produce. http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - $5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually $4 & $2 /12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance
-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. $3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS
9751-3rd st. Sidney, B.C., V8L 3A5 phone: 655-9222
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests. Current cost of meals- $6.00. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children.
Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OPEN DOOR SOCIETY - OUR PLACE
713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M8 phone: 385-2454
7am - 3 pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends
Victoria's 'Living Room' - a drop in centre with free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread, sometimes produce, clothing room, counseling & referrals.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am–12:30 pm, 1:30 pm–4:30 pm Mon–Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services.
Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169
Food bank open Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Friday and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am–4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 4–5:30 pm
Meal pass costs $26 a month, or $1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - *where healthy eating is an act of community.*
250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral, 912 Vancouver St., 7:45-9:30 am
coffee, tea, orange juice, eggs & hash browns, also ham

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, ham

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, sausage

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Worker's' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 Nov 1st-?, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women's Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women's Residence- 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511

Ritz Hotel- 710 Fort Street, 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621

York Hotel 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

Douglas Hotel 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157

Ocean Island Backpackers 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788

Turtle Refuge Backpackers 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366,www.humanx.org.

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities) 301- 3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Cap. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities) 623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing, ie: Cool Aid-www.coolaid.org) 826 Cormorant 356-2548

M'Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org/Housing

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List www.ccss.camosun.bc.ca

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com/

UVic Off Campus Housing www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

Helpful Housing Hints:

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list.

Some places to call for help

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 228-1250 Quadra, 387-5077

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service ($5/mth): 383-1977

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Soc. of Living Intravenous Drugusers: 7-9 pm Wednesdays, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342

Bodhi's Path ... a serial ... episode X

Robert Lightheart Jones is a universalist Friend who explores the many ways beings express the great dance of life of which we are but a small part. Robert invites reaction and storyline suggestions c/o streetnewz@islandnet.com.

The story so far: The house is settling nicely into a well oiled machine. One by one, our characters - Albert, Loki, Bodhi, Freyja, - have each found his/her place. Albert's view of the world has been altered greatly through his social interaction with others, and Bodhi's sense of humour and cookery has served as glue for the community

Georgia heard a tap at the front door with Wotan leaning against her thigh, she peered though the spy hole. A woman was there. Wotan looked up into her eyes in askance and she just patted his big head so he "sat." She looked down at him with jowls and his love handles. She decided right there that he was going on a slimming program. He was about as threatening as a big overstuffed teddy bear. He slept most of the time. Maybe she should get him and Loki together to go on morning jogs. The boy would benefit from some exercise and a bit of pocket money too.

"Poor old Wotan, doggy middle age is hell, isn't it?" Wotan seemed to smile at her, at times like these she could swear he could completely understand her. She opened the door there were two very tall slender women there. They had dazzling smiles and they were twins. They had their hair pulled into tight chignon buns on back of their heads with dangle ear rings. They were dressed identically in matching clothes: olive halter tops, black leather mini skirts, their long, giraffe like legs were incased in lime green tights. They both wore shiny black leather low heeled shoes on their long thin feet. T he both sported small black leather shoulder bags. Georgia thought to herself, these woman had to be selling something.

"Yes, how may I help you? Are you are selling something ,I'm not in the habit of inviting in sales people..." She look up not certain who to talk to.

"No, we're not ssselling anything. We're the Magrath Twinsss. Ssshe's Leaf and I'm Myracle. We're looking for our sssissster, Nougie she gave this house number in her last letter." The woman had a deep contralto voice but her speech had an irritating aspect because all of her 'esses' hissed wetly. The other twin reached into her purse to get out the letter. She held it out for Georgia to read and she looked at it suspiciously.

"Oh, no that's the A frame next door. This is 110, you want 112. Nougatine? She's the young pregnant girl who has been staying with Albert?"

"Yesss, that'sss her. We're worried that ssshe's okay. Ssshe has very..um.."
Irrefular habits." Her sister finished the sentence for her.

"Yesss, it'ss time ssshe sssettled down and ssstopped her rambling waysss..."
"...what with our baby coming on..." Georgia was beginning to feel like she was watching a tennis match. Her head kept swing back and forth between their faces. She put up her hand like she was asking to be heard . Both of the twins stopped talking and respectfully listened.

"I am beginning to get a stiff neck from having to look up at you two. Perhaps we might sit down to a nice cup of tea. I've just got some scones out of the oven. I'm afraid no one is home next door. Nougatine is at Lamaze classes with Bodhi and it's open mike night at the Road house, Albert and Freyja go so that Albert can do a couple of songs and sell some CDs. "Georgia watched the two of them nodding in unison but beginning to glaze over. They didn't have the slightest idea who the people she was talking about were. "I'm sorry I guess you don't want to hear the neighbourhood gossip." She ushered them through the living room and out into the big kitchen with its oval oak pedestal table and captains chairs. The twins were relieved that they were not going to have to sit on the very old and fragile antiques. They had to sit in them like grasshoppers as they were designed or tiny people of Georgia's size.

"I'll put he kettle on and see if I can find some preserves to go with the scones..."

Myracle sat down gingerly testing the chair and said, "Don't trouble yourssself ,Georgia. We had dinner at the hotel ssso we're...."

"I'd love some of your scones. They smell heavenly." Leaf gave her sister a severe look. We really appreciate the warm welcome."

Georgia brought in a gleaming silver tea set on a silver tray. She had thought to bring out the Doulton china cups but decided they were not the fussy kind and settled for everyday cups, saucers and butter plates. She arrayed the scones and preserves on the centre of the table and invited them to tuck in. Leaf cooed about the beauty of the silver service. Wotan was capering around click-clicking with his claws on the flagstone floor alternately sitting and wiggling appealingly his big sorrowful eyes concentrating on every motion of the scones. He was doing his best to look gaunt and starved but his bulbous sausage of a body made it impossible to carry it off.

"Don't give in to him he is officially on a diet and rigorous training schedule as of today. Look at him he's got a double chin and paunch. I ask you does he look even remotely like a killer guard dog. Wotan go to your room! You hear me- no nonsense, now!" He walked out looking offended." Oh oh, looks like he will go into a pout now."

Both of them were again politely nodding and 'looking interested'. Georgia poured tea for them all chuckling. "You must be tired from your flight and here I am gabbling on about things you know nothing about..."

"Actually, we have gotten quite a few letters from Nougie," said Leaf," telling stories about the people she's met and we feel like we have some idea of the community here. It's so like her to get he house number wrong. She can be a bit unfocussed and scatter brained but we'll take her in hand." She sipped her tea looking at Myracle to continue.

"We got a letter after a sssilence of about three monthsss, like a note in a bottle asssking usss to help because ssshe wasss pregnant and alone. We decided between usss that we were not getting much work in LA any more asss ssshow girlss and both of usss are ssstarting to have joint problemsss after too many yearsss asss hoofersss. Her lettersss alwaysss sssaid that we would be amazed how polite, open and friendly Canadiansss were and how sssafe sshe felt up here. Ssso Leaf and I sssaid what he hell, let'sss blow this town and go and be auntiesss. Nougie wasss a Berkeley brat. Ssshe was getting copsss watching her ssso ssshe came up here to get away from all that. We all were there during the interesssting timesss of the love children. Asss Modern Dance people we were alwaysss on the fringesss not much involved with the counter culture, like Nougie was. We were in the career groove. Everything that didn't fit with the dance wasss unimportant. Sssome timesss Nougie would sssmoke pot with Leaf and I wasss not happy with her... In a kind of way I regret that I didn't join in. They had good timesss. They called me 'up-tight' but sssomebody had to take care of thingsss..." Leaf pursed her lips in remembrance.

"She was awful-like an old maiden aunt. Nougie and I used to try to provoke her into action. Well, I guess her stability has kept us together as a dance duo all these years. We were careful to respect our differences and honour our commonalities. We don't have many things we cant agree on really. We knew that when all our friends and acquaintances were being called up as reservists, we had to leave America. We're going to see if we can set up a safe place for them to come up here to. We need to get naturalization sponsorship to make that possible. We need to get some expert advice how to go about that. If it is anything like down south, if you got bucks it smoothes things a lot. We have been sticking our money away for years because neither of us had much of a life outside of our dance life. Everything will now be turned to being activist aunties. We realized that we were way past our prime as dancers and the effort to continue was too painful. My hips and Leaf has foot problems. We were using masses of pain medicine to carry on. It is time to hang up our toe shoes."

There was a knock on the front door. Wotan gave a token, if somewhat mock fierce, Woof. Georgia said, "Hold that thought, Wotan..." They both, of course recognized the way Freyja went 'Shave-and-a-hair-cut." As She came in He was doing his rub my belly act for his favourite person. Albert looked down at him with disgust.

"Have you no shame? You are a disgrace to the Male gender, You old reprobate!"

"Give him a break, Albert he is a darling." Freyja knelt to rub him on the chest. He gave a deep moan of pleasure.

They all sat in the kitchen and as soon as the introductions had been done, Myracle asked after her sister.

"She is officially three weeks to term and healthy. She's carrying twins. My son, Loki, Is very protective of her. Helping her in and out of chairs and walking her round the block. Bodhi has been doing baby and parenting with her." Wotan was leaning against Freyja's leg blissed out on an ear scratch. Loki breezed in through the side door. Wotan raised one eyelid and returned to santori. Loki was bubbling over with enthusiasm.

"Hi you guys .I've been thinking of names for the kids...How about Boris and Natasha, or Rocky and Bullwinkle? Oh, sorry I didn't know we had guests. Suddenly everyone was chiming in with silly suggestions.

"Dweezle and Moon Unit..."
"Sssyd and Nancccy.."
"Bilbo and Frodo.."
"Popeye and Bluto"
"Abecrombie and Fitch?"

"Stop! Loki I'd like you to meet Nougatine's sisters Leaf (She has the gold ear rings) and Myracle in the silver ones." Suddenly Loki was all prep school manners, surprising all who knew him. This was a side of him none of them had seen before. He shook each of their hands.

"It is a pleasure to meet you both. I know we will be good friends. Nougatine is very special. She is a very good person and I am proud to know her. I must apologize for bursting in and interrupting you..." Freyja was dumb struck. Then she broke into gales of laughter. Loki smiled sheepishly ducked his head blushing. He stood rocking on his heel uncertain what to do and was rescued by a commiserating lick to his hand from Wotan. Loki dropped to his knees and gave the dog a hug.

"I expect that Bodhi will be back by now and we might take this over there. Thanks Georgia. See you in the morning around coffee time?"

Maria and Emily on the streets of Victoria with the DVBA's Clean and Safe program. www.downtownvictoria.ca

Jeremiah in James Bay

We are, claims historian and novelist Ronald Wright, a species clever enough to get itself into trouble but not wise enough to get out of it. In *A Short History of Progress*, Wright argues that "progress traps" always seem to catch *Homo sapiens* and its civilizations by surprise. A similar conclusion was reached by biologist Edward O. Wilson in *The Future of Life*: Our destructive behaviour is part of us; we are hard-wired to make the wrong choices. Wilson claims that human beings are adapted by Darwinian natural selection to favour short-term decisions (like those quarterly corporate performance reports) and to focus on local concerns (e.g. not being able to see the bigger or longer-term consequences of our individual actions). I refer to it as blindsight: our inability to connect the dots between behaviour and consequences in just about everything we do and our concomitant inability to change our behaviour in order to forestall crises or disasters. Blindsight has occurred throughout human history in both collective and individual human behaviour.

I find this inability everywhere, from mundane to dramatic examples. In my frequent walks through Beacon Hill Park I often see people of all ages feeding the ducks and grey squirrels. They think it is cute, and an appropriate activity on an outing in the park. They are wrong and failing to connect the dots. Feeding the ducks destroys the ducks' wildness, makes them dependent on humans for much of their food supply, provides improper nutrition (all those bread crumbs!), and leads to a duck population far in excess of what such a habitat can comfortably support. The waste from the high number of ducks adds too much organic matter, mostly nitrogen, to the ponds in the park promoting the growth of algae which literally suffocates the ponds. Similar arguments apply to the feeding of grey squirrels, an invasive species. The overly-timid Parks Department has posted a few signs suggesting that the feeding of wildlife is not a good idea, but they don't prohibit it. Why? Can they not connect the dots either? Or are the dots to the tourist business too big to ignore?

This is a tiny and, for most, trite example; David Suzuki offers a more serious one. During one of Toronto's increasingly frequent smog-alert days, he took a CBC film crew to a local hospital. Their object was to record parents bringing their children to emergency for asthma and related breathing problems caused by the toxic air enveloping the city. Breathing-related problems is the single biggest reason children are brought to emergency departments at Toronto hospitals. The parking lot was full of SUVs driven by those selfsame parents in bringing their children to the hospital. SUVs exhaust a disproportionately high volume of air pollutants compared to regular cars. They are dangerous, offensive vehicles. What does it take, he pleads, for people to make the connection between their everyday thoughtless behavior and the serious environmental problems surrounding them? How stupid can they be? What will it take for them to change their behaviour?

Or consider this one, no doubt close to home for each of you. When you sit down to eat a steak or hamburger, can you connect the dots from the item on your plate back to the brutalities of the slaughterhouse, the cramped horrors of the cattle liners, the fetid squalor of the feedlots? Eating meat purchased in tidy styrofoam packages from the local supermarket is a form of what Jeremy Rifkin in *Beyond Beef* termed cold evil. Cold evil is evil inflicted from a distance, evil concealed by layer upon layer of technological and institutional garb. If you eat meat - even if it's labelled signature series sterling silver premium certified Canadian beef or another similar euphemistic marketing name - you are complicit in the cruelty and horror of meat production. One quarter of earth's landmass is used as pasture for cattle and other livestock; this overgrazing of the earth has horrible consequences including deforestation of much of Africa and Central and South America. Disposing of the waste from cattle farms and feedlots is a toxic challenge that cannot be safely met.

No matter how many dire warnings we receive about the perilous state of the planet's environment, we do not change our way of living in any meaningful, large-scale, dramatic or ongoing ways. As a species, I don't think we are able to do so.

Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wente wrote recently that environmentalists who bemoan the state of the planet simply have reached the wrong conclusion. She asks, quite reasonably on the surface, what can be so bad since we are all healthier now, live longer, have more stuff and generally lead better lives than any previous generation on the planet. Indeed! She forgot to add a few things or, for that matter, to lift her gaze even a bit to see where all that so-called good living has come from and at what cost to the rest of the environment and the majority world. She did not see reason to mention that her argument applies only to those who have won the birth lottery by happening to live in one of the overdeveloped countries, such as Canada or the United States. Our gravy-train of greed and gluttony is fed by the rest of the planet and it is ruining our environment.

The USA, with 8 percent of the world's population, sucks in over one-quarter of its resources and spews out an equal proportion of green-house gases. On a per capita basis Canada is right up there with its southern neighbour but its small population does not make much of a dint on the world environmental stage (Canadians are the world's biggest users of energy, on a per capita basis). And an even larger vacuum cleaner of the earth's resources has been activated: China. Margaret Wente does not realize that our orgy of living has gone on unchecked far too long and has already begun to wind down. Climate is rapidly changing, oil and natural gas are being depleted at alarming rates, water for irrigation, industrial and household uses is becoming scarcer, the gap between rich and poor is large and growing, cancer rates caused by our toxic lifestyle are frightening, overpopulation is a menacing specter, over 50 million people worldwide have died in armed conflicts since the end of WWII, food supply lines are long, thin and precarious, per capita world grain production is lower now than in the mid-1980s, and more people go to bed hungry than at any time in human history.

Environmentalists' pleadings are an early warning that our techno-industrial civilizations are about to implode. Life, as we learned in watching Jurassic Park, will find a way. Once human beings have fouled their own nests sufficiently to destroy themselves, the earth will begin slowly (which is the only way nature does things) to heal itself. Toronto, New York, Tokyo and other megalopolises might not be around but other creatures and plants (save for the ones humans have led to extinction) will go on. Our planet has survived at least five mass extinctions in the past and will probably do so again. Some extreme environmentalists are now beginning to suggest that techno-industrial societies should continue to consume unrelentingly in order to get the orgy over with as soon as possible. In other words, the sooner humans destroy their civilizations, the better off the planet will be. Instead of dragging out the destruction, let it happen quickly. It's an interesting perspective, one not held entirely tongue-in-cheek.

There is no shortage of information or real-life examples of how bad things are, environmentally speaking. The information is neither hard to find nor understand. Granted, the main-stream media do a superb job of suppressing, diminishing, hiding, down-playing, ignoring and swamping it with the latest sports , entertainment and lifestyle news replete with advertisements. It's there if you care enough to find it, though. Yet how many times do we attend a David Suzuki lecture, listen to Ronald Wright on the CBC, read a Sierra Club newsletter,then carry on living in the same destructive ways we always have? For those who don't care enough to even gain an awareness of the only news in today's world that really matters - no, not the federal election, or the Winter Olympics, or same-sex marriage legislation - which is news of the state of the environment, there is no hope of seeing a lifestyle change.

Our complex civilizations, for all their purported sophistication, lack the political, economic, cultural and social mechanisms to confront large-scale crises that could eventually, even catastrophically, result in the collapse of our civilizations. In that regard, they exhibit behaviour no different from individuals or small communities. The history of collapsed civilizations is now well documented. In each case their leaders were unable or powerless to stem the tide of doom by changing socio-economic systems to avert disaster which they likely knew was imminent. In fact, there is evidence of the elites of some doomed civilizations living ever more extravagantly towards the end in futile attempt to defy the inevitable. More blindsight: Hard partying five minutes before it's all over.

This brings us full circle. As a species, we can hear the bad news, see it all around us, yet blithely carry on living the exact same way. There is, after all, no real alternative! Not only are we hard-wired to think short term and focus locally, we are hard-wired to keep doing exactly as we have always done. Moreover, we are imprisoned in social, economic and political straight-jackets of our own creation. Once the mighty technological genie was let out of the bottle with the advent of the Industrial Revolution, there was no way to put it back in. The success of our techno-industrial economies is predicated on constant growth. Our politicians focus on the next election or the current scandal of the day. We are educated, evolved and programmed to keep things going more or less on the same trajectory.

We cannot "not work" because we need to live and pay our bills; we can't stop eating foods imported from thousands of miles away because there are no real alternatives; we can't not drive a car because the design of our cities has made driving a necessity; we can't stop supporting a rapacious, cruel, destructive global industrial system because without constant economic growth we lose everything we value including pension plans, health care, education, material possessions, vacations to far-off places, mutual funds, and RRSPs. In short, it's hopeless. And besides, who wants to be the first person or neighborhood or city or province or country politely to step off the treadmill of our exhausting, insatiable way of life? Unless everyone else does so at more or less the same time, those choosing this noble even altruistic action would quickly be over-run. Perhaps the world is unfolding as it should. We are a speck of dust in the cosmos, a flash in time, mere Ice Age hunters according to Ronald Wright, only half evolved towards intelligence, clever but seldom wise.

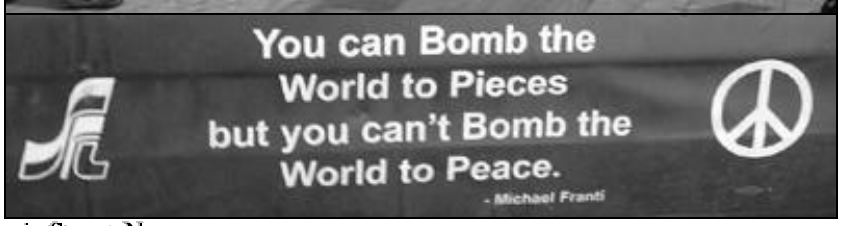
On the other hand, if your conscience is subject to twinges of guilt about our planet, there are three things you can do to assuage your state of mind. Each can be done easily, inexpensively, immediately: Quit eating meat or seafood; sell your SUV or other gas-guzzling vehicle; and stay home (as in don't fly on jet airplanes or sail on cruise ships). You see, the first steps are simple. As for the remaining 6.4 billion humans around you.....

Cities and Thrones and Powers
Stand in Time's eye
Almost as long as flowers
Which daily die

Rudyard Kipling

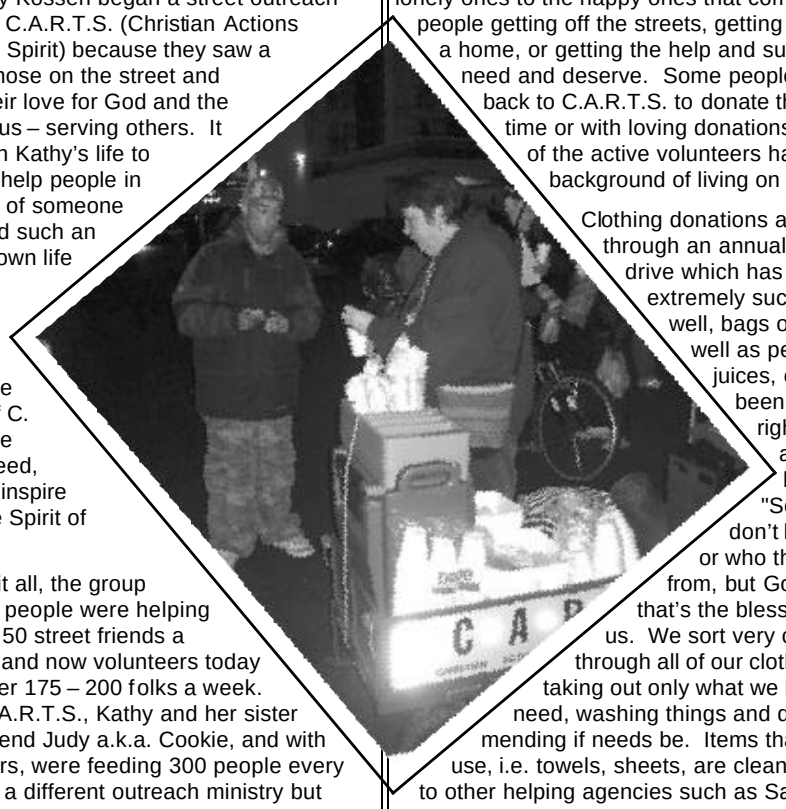
Submitted by Brian Mason

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee greeted MLAs with banners as they returned to work at the Legislature. Info: wildernesscommittee.org



CARTS Delivers

Almost three years ago a small group of people including Kathy Kossen began a street outreach ministry called C.A.R.T.S. (Christian Actions Reflecting The Spirit) because they saw a need to help those on the street and because of their love for God and the mission of Jesus – serving others. It was a calling in Kathy's life to reach out and help people in need. The joy of someone helping me had such an impact on my own life when I was younger and faced many struggles." That is why she is a member of C.A.R.T.S. whose mission is to feed, embrace, and inspire others with the Spirit of God.



At the start of it all, the group consisting of 5 people were helping approximately 50 street friends a week in 2003, and now volunteers today are helping over 175 – 200 folks a week. Previous to C.A.R.T.S., Kathy and her sister Charon and friend Judy a.k.a. Cookie, and with other volunteers, were feeding 300 people every Friday night in a different outreach ministry but they realized a different vision, one that would go forth right into the streets, serving people as they went, pulling of all things, carts laden with food, beverage, and good, warm clothing. They are on the streets in every kind of weather, "doesn't matter if it's pouring rain or well below zero" said Kathy of their commitment to helping the homeless. "We have a clear purpose in what we do and as we go, we are not in a hurry, we can sit and listen or visit with people right where they are."

Thursday night is prep night, putting together bags of essential items, chopping carrots and celery for veggie bags to hand out, getting clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, doggie food, ready to roll for every Friday night's outing. There are also many wonderful fresh buns which are slathered with peanut butter and jam, prepared by Judy and Ed, each one individually wrapped. Then there is the "to die for" street treat – "the cookie", also wrapped with love.

They do it all over again one Sunday night each month with the Christian Reformed Youth Group who wander the streets with the carts. "C.A.R.T.S. is great because it can be hard for some people to leave their belongings to visit a food bank or go where a small meal may be available." Their nights start at the Capital 6 Theatre where the garden carts, which is where the name came from, are stored. The two carts hold most of their cargo but small things are also carried by volunteers or pulled in small trolleys. The walk begins down Blanshard Street and up the Needle Exchange, then back down to Johnson, down Douglas to Pandora and then down to the Streetlink Shelter. After that they make their way up Yates and back to the lot.

With the help of donations, the group spends about $100 – 120 a week on peanut butter, fruits, and vegetables, all packed up fresh. Buns are donated as are pastries. They also have a volunteer who makes up "personal paks" holding soap and shampoo, tooth paste and a toothbrush and other essential items, giving out usually 10 packs a night. "If they don't need it they won't take it and if they have more than one, they'll share it," Kathy said proudly. Also there are always a few street doggies that need food and C.A.R.T.S. makes up "doggie bags" for these friends.

Funding comes from private donations as well as an online donation site – "Givemeaning.com" the wonderful giving site designed by Tom Williams. C.A.R.T.S. also has their own website for people to visit, www.cartsvistoria.ca. It introduces the group and lets people know the who, what, and why of C.A.R.T.S.

As well as the Youth Group from the Christian Reformed Church, in the past 2 groups of University students volunteered. "Giving to someone is like giving to yourself," said one of the students.

Kathy and the group love and cherish all of the many stories that are shared from the sad and lonely ones to the happy ones that come along of people getting off the streets, getting jobs, finding a home, or getting the help and support they need and deserve. Some people have come back to C.A.R.T.S. to donate their own time or with loving donations and some of the active volunteers have a background of living on the street.

Clothing donations are gathered through an annual clothing drive which has been extremely successful. As well, bags of clothing as well as peanut butter, juices, etc. have been dropped off right at Kathy and Charon's home. "Sometimes we don't know where or who things come from, but God does, and that's the blessing for all of us. We sort very carefully through all of our clothing items, taking out only what we know we will need, washing things and doing some mending if needs be. Items that we cannot use, i.e. towels, sheets, are cleaned and given to other helping agencies such as Sandi Merriman House or the Needle Exchange – it all finds a wonderful home. There is so much delight in being able to give someone a warm jacket, warm socks and mitts, and soaking up the love exchange between C.A.R.T.S. people and whoever we can help out."

Everything that is donated to C.A.R.T.S. is always given out freely – "from your hands, to ours, to theirs. It's all part of a big giving circle starting with the wonderful person who donates and thinks of others in this way – bless them all."

"That could be me, in two seconds that could be me," said Kathy. Most people think it could never happen to them but as Kathy said, it can happen to anyone, great or small. "We are here to help in anyway that we can, food, clothing, a listening ear, support, and prayer."

The C.A.R.T.S. program is a federal registered charity and issues tax deductible receipts for any financial donations. It also has a great philosophy: "everyone deserves to be fed, embraced and treated with dignity in a non-judgmental way regardless of their living situation." Anyone can get involved by giving food, clothing, money or time. Blessings and joy come from giving out of love, and that's

C.A.R.T.S.

Submitted by Chris Webber and Kathy Kossen
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UVic Students Organize Anti-Poverty Feast and Awareness Event

A group of Social Work students from the University of Victoria recently kicked off an anti-poverty public awareness campaign with a speech in front of the Yates Street Market. On February 27th, students handed out information sheets to passersby about the realities of poverty in the community, including the fact that 25% of community's residents are living below the poverty line.

The School of Social Work urges future social workers to address the structural causes of social issues and encourages students to take action on a community level. Inspired to take a stand against poverty, students also wrote individual letters to the Minister of Employment and Income Assistance, Claude Richmond, as well as to their various MLA's. Their collective message is a concern for the lack of support for the most vulnerable people in British Columbia, in the recent release of the 2006 provincial budget.

On March 17th, the students hosted a free banquet and concert at the St. John the Divine church hall. Approximately 500 people in need either attended the feast or took away a bagged lunch. Organizing this event allowed the students to build relationships with local social service providers, compassionate businesses and other supportive individuals in the community. Many students were left feeling that this experience shaped their learning and growth on a much more personal level than that provided by their classroom training.

The students would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who attended the feast. The feast was a huge success because you decided to brave the rain and join us. Without all of you, we would not have had the privilege of experiencing such a warm sense of community. Your appreciation for this event truly humbled us and reminded us again of why we decided to become social workers.

Submitted by Melanie Beernink - melanieb@uvic.ca

www.bendib.com

Our anti-Human anti-Environmental Economy

There is no doubt in my mind that our present economy is a serious and immediate threat to the continued well being of our species and many others as well. I do not think that we can address our current social and ecological crises without developing an economy which is radically different than the present one. Mere tinkering with our present ecologically unsustainable and economically unviable system is not going to do the trick. An imposing problem, however, is that most people, including social activists, know very little about how the present economy works and they have even less idea about how to create an economy which is ecologically sustainable, economically viable, democratic and egalitarian. They will certainly not receive much help from economists of the dominant neo-classical school because it was that kind of economic thinking that did much to create the problems we are faced with today. Indeed, mainstream economists are not trained or equipped to solve the problems we currently confront. I am thinking, however, that we could begin to tackle the serious problems we currently confront if we build on the work of the Japanese Uno School of Social Science and especially of Kozo Uno, Thomas Sekine and Rob Albritton, in particular. The theoretical foundation of that school is the economic theory of a purely capitalist economy.

Many people believe that our current economy may be accurately described as capitalism especially since it is obvious that capitalist firms still play leading roles in our economy but it is important to remember that merchants and money-lenders engaged in profit-seeking capitalist activities on the periphery of pre-capitalist societies long before capitalism appeared in the early modern era so it is conceivable that a capitalist presence could be a feature of a society that was evolving away from capitalism as well. Admittedly, capitalism prepared the way for the emergence of our present economic system and still influences our thinking, our values and our activities; thus, we do need to understand something about how that system operated, if only to distinguish it from our present economy, which I regret to say is far more dangerous than capitalism in certain crucial respects.

Capitalism as a coherent and viable economic system exists to the extent that all material goods or use-values are produced as commodities destined to be offered for sale in a society-wide competitive market by competing, privately owned firms, which, to carry on this activity, must purchase material commodities such as tools, machines and fuel in the same market, together with the special commodity of labour-power (i.e. the individual worker's capacity to perform part of the productive labour entailed in producing said goods). To the extent that all goods are produced for such a competitive market it is that self-regulating market and its impersonal logic and not human beings, which control or manage our collective economic life, even if some of our ancestors were instrumental in setting up that system in the first place.

In order for capitalism to come into existence capital, which had previously been limited to mercantile trade between distant communities and to money-lending activities, must evolve to the point that it can seize control of the labour-and-production process in society so that it can profit from the sale of use-values produced in industrial capitalist factories. The labour-and-production process refers to that process in which the direct producers who mix their labour with nature hunt, gather, grow or produce goods for social consumption. How that labour-and-production process is organized varies from one society to another but capitalism differs radically from all other forms of society in that it subjects all economic agents to the impersonal coercion of its society-wide market and attendant logic whereas in all other forms of economy the managers of the labour-and-production process apply direct physical coercion - or the threat of same - to the direct producers but are not subject to external coercion, either physical or impersonal, themselves. Some anthropologists believe that certain hunting-and-gathering societies managed their economic activities in the absence of any class-based social divisions or coercion.

Capitalism can take control of the labour-and-production process only if capitalists can successfully take away the power of any other class to compel the labour of the direct producers. In Europe, for example, capitalists had to take away the right of the feudal lords to compel the free labour of serfs. This occurred by a process which combined relatively peaceful struggle with violent revolution. The newly freed former serfs also had to be denied any access to productive land so that they would be free to sell their labour-power to one capitalist or another but would not be free to refuse to do so. In Britain that occurred as a result of such devices as the Enclosure Acts, which provided the legal authority to permit landowners to drive rural producers off the common land where their ancestors had worked for centuries to provide for their families during those periods when they were not obligated to work for the feudal lords. At the same time, it was fortunate for the future development of capitalism that the capitalists themselves did not immediately seize control of all the productive land in society because that would have made a reasonably level playing field among capitalists impossible. Moreover, a non-capitalist landlord class, which lived on rental incomes not moveable capital, would not then have been present and motivated to provide a measure of protection for the land and its resources. Thus, from the very beginning, capitalism was divided into a capitalist class, a working class and a class of non-capitalist landowners. Capitalism did not evolve out of a society of small independent producers, which gradually developed a system of generalized barter and a complex division of labour. This is a fantasy perpetuated by introductory neo-classical economics texts.

Although a capitalist society will slowly but necessarily raise the standard of living of working people, it will also reproduce class inequality over time and over generations and it will necessarily goes through periodic depressions, which will subject large numbers of workers to periods of unemployment.

In Kozo Uno's Principles of Political Economy and in Tom Sekine's Dialectic of Capital (1984) and An Outline of the Dialectic of Capital (1997) the authors demonstrate how it is that the capitalist market and its logic can manage, regulate and reproduce material economic life and the reproduction of the major social classes over time when human beings from all classes grudgingly or enthusiastically accept the guidance of the market, its logic and its price mechanism rather than setting up some form of human management of the economy-either democratic or undemocratic. Adam Smith, the great early defender of capitalism likened the market to God because he had faith that its 'invisible hand' would somehow make order out of the chaos that might otherwise occur when the government ceased developing active interventionist economic policies to ensure economic stability and, instead, was content to adhere to a 'laissez-faire' policy that allowed the market to manage economic life so long as economic agents of all classes did not collectively act to impede its operation by, for example, forming monopolies, cartels or trade unions.

In truth, there has never been a society in which human beings collectively obeyed the market all of the time but Britain in its late liberal era - the last half-century of the 1750-1870 period - came the closest to realizing a purely capitalist society. That society did not become progressively unstable nor did it stagnate when the market was given more and more control over economic life. That suggests that Smith's faith in the market was at least partially justified; nevertheless, a scientific investigation of how the market operated is necessary to fully explain how it managed to maintain a stable and coherent economic system in the absence of human intervention and to explore what the limits of the market's capabilities might be.

If the market really was guided by a logic - specifically a dialectical logic - then we should be able to reproduce its operating principles or laws by a thought experiment or, in other words, by an exercise of logic that reproduces in thought a logic that tended increasingly to prevail throughout the liberal capitalist era. Trying to discern that logic from an investigation of even the purest form of historical capitalism - that of late liberal Britain - would be handicapped by our inability to separate that which was brought about by the logic's operation and that which resulted from the use-value and collective human resistance which always frustrate the market's operation to varying degrees. It was to Karl Marx's credit that, after some false starts he found the right starting point to begin to reproduce the market's impersonal logic when he had the admirable discretion to begin his masterpiece, Capital, with an analysis of the commodity-form. Unfortunately, Marx died before he could complete his masterpiece, which was his attempt to explain - among other things - how a purely capitalist economy would work. It was left to Uno and Sekine to correct and complete Marx's work.

Uno and Sekine show that in any society where goods are produced and traded as commodities in a society-wide market, money and two forms of capital (commercial / merchant and financial / money-lending) will necessarily appear. The only way that such a society could be viable over time is if productive workers had already been denied access to productive land. If this is the case, then the market and its logic have the power to force individual members of the working class to repeatedly sell their labour-power to one industrial capital or another in the same market. Uno and Sekine demonstrate that the market and its logic will ensure that employed workers will necessarily receive wages just adequate to reproduce their labour-power and to provide for a typical family of offspring. This means that capital will have a supply of workers not only now and in the near-future but also after the present generation has left the workplace. The market will also ensure that workers' wages will rise through time only if workers spend any wage increases on more commodities and do not save. Not only that, the market has the capacity to operate in such a way that wage goods and producer goods, such as the various means of production, will be produced in the proportions capitalism requires to reproduce itself over time. Although a capitalist society will slowly but necessarily raise the standard of living of working people, it will also reproduce class inequality over time and over generations and it will necessarily goes through periodic depressions, which will subject large numbers of workers to periods of unemployment.

Submitted by John Bell - johnrbell@shaw.ca

The 'RabbleBerries' entertained the March 18 peace rally crowd gathered in Centennial Square

ZEN ZONE NEWS - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - Her-story

As mentioned in the last article, we'll be discussing changes occurring in our society and the role Family services and child protection play. C. Rae became concerned about the increasing levels of poverty when she unexpectedly had to learn to live with it. Most unfortunately, she also had to deal with the unexpected 'removal' of her children after social services stepped in to 'help'.

Deer-o-che: Could you explain the circumstances that lead to the removal of your children?

C.Rae: The apprehension occurred while I was having emergency surgery at the Vic General. I had been staying in a transition house to get away from my abusive ex-husband. The transition house is meant to be a confidential hiding place for women who are emotionally or physically abused. My ex-husband told me if I tried to leave he would take the children from me no matter how he had to do it.

Deer-o-che: So you went to the transition house thinking that your ex-husband wouldn't be able to find you?

C. Rae: Yes. I thought Icould start over in a new city with the help of the staff at the women's shelter. Unfortunately, about a week after I got there, a social worker called me on my cell phone saying that my ex-husband had called and said I ran away with the kids and might murder them.

Deer-o-che: What was your reaction to that?

C. Rae: I laughed and said, "You can't be serious." but she was. Social services knew of the abuse I had endured. In 1997, after my ex had been charged with assaulting me, social services warned me that if I allowed him to live with us they would remove the children because of his abusive history.

Deer-o-che: In your opinion did social services have any reason to believe that you were capable of murdering your children?

C. Rae: No! I was no different than any other mom. I was going through a tough period but I never neglected or hurt my children. The social worker interviewed each child and several people spoke on my behalf. There was not one claim of me ever hurting any of the children. In fact, the social worker said in court that the children were strongly bonded to me and possibly 'too concerned about wanting to be with me'.

Deer-o-che: So what you are saying is that social services should have been more sensitive to the source of the complaint?

C. Rae: Sort of. They sent two male officers to the safe house to find me and that was a breech of confidentiality. Social services knew my ex had assaulted me in the past and they should have realized what he was saying was just a ploy to make me return home. Statistics show that it is extremely common for abusive men to either threaten to take the kids or, if they have money, actually follow through with that threat. Social workers should know that.

Deer-o-che: Did they make you return home?

C. Rae: Social services (S.S.) decided to do an investigation and if I left the safe house, even to take a walk, they would apprehend the children. We were stuck in there for 23 days. I wasn't even allowed to take the children to school. Every few days I called the social worker and asked if I could please enroll the children in school because they were getting depressed from being locked up. They started saying things like, 'Mom, we could sneak out, buy wigs, get on the ferry and they would never be able to take us away!' I will never forget the look on my son's face when the social worker arrived. He thought he would never see me again. The social worker wanted to talk to him alone but he didn't want to leave my side. I tried to comfort him by telling him if he told the truth, nothing bad would happen.

Deer-o-che: What was the purpose of the interview?

C.Rae: The interview was the beginning of the investigation. 23 days later I was told I could live in an apartment with the kids but I had to sign an agreement. I had known the social worker that I was dealing with for many years and I even babysat her kids.

Deer-o-che: So you trusted her?

C. Rae: Yes. That was the only reason I signed the agreement. It stated I would allow S.S. access to the children any time. I told the social worker I wouldn't sign it because of one thing and she said, 'Oh, this is a standard agreement we use for everyone. We don't take people's children away without a reason. We only do that as a last resort'.

Deer-o-che: What happened after you left the safe house?

C. Rae: I rented an apartment in Victoria. I was still very sick but I couldn't see a doctor because S.S. claimed I had Munchausen's syndrome, a mental illness where the people cause their own illness.

Deer-o-che: Had you been diagnosed with it?

C. Rae: No. I had been sick for over a year but my doctor just kept prescribing painkillers. When S.S. contacted my doctor to ask whether I was really sick or not, the doctor said she believed I had Munchausen's. That was the first time I heard that. 7 days after I signed the agreement, I ended up at having major surgery.

Deer-o-che: So you really were sick?

C. Rae: Yeah. I had my gallbladder removed and stones that were blocking my liver and intestines. The doctor referred me to a specialist because my organs had been slowly shutting down for a while so my blood was all out of whack. It was a year before my blood tests started coming back normal. The doctor thought my liver was blocked for at least a year to cause that much damage to my system.

Deer-o-che: Where were the children staying when you were in the hospital?

C. Rae: My 13 year old daughter was watching my son and my six-year-old daughter was with me. I had gone out for a walk, fallen unconscious and woke up in Emergency. Because I was unconscious and my daughter was with me, the emergency staff notified social services and they called my parents to pick up all of the children. I had surgery during the night. When I came out of the recovery room I climbed over the side rails of the bed so I could call the children but as I was walking out of the room, my dad walked in. He said, 'Colleen, sit down. We need to talk.' I was like, 'I need to be up dad. I have to get better so I can get home for the kids.' He insisted I sit down so I did and as he spoke, all the life drained out of me. All the words were coming out of his mouth at once: 'Colleen, social services apprehended the children and gave them to your ex-husband.' Don't think. No thinking. Thinking hurts. I asked the nurse to send the staff social worker to my room after my dad left and I questioned her until I was too tired.

Deer-o-che: So why were the children removed?

C. Rae: I still don't know. I didn't realize that I had given social services the right to take the children by signing that agreement. Only seven days had passed since they had completed their investigation and found me a fit enough mother to live alone with my children. The only thing that changed was the fact that I had surgery, which proved I was genuinely physically ill, contrary to what social services, and my ex- husband was saying.

Deer-o-che: Were the children returned when you were discharged from the hospital?

C. Rae: No. I wanted out of the hospital as fast as possible so I left after four days even though I was very weak. I went to court two days later.

Deer-o-che: Did you explain to the judge that you had just had surgery?

C. Rae: I didn't get a chance to speak. All we did was set a date for a 'family conference'. I asked one of the social workers how long it would be before they returned the children and I was told six weeks but that was three years ago.

Deer-o-che: Three years have gone by and the children still haven't been returned to you? Have you tried going to court?

C. Rae: I have probably been to court fifty times. At first I had representation but it was through legal aid and the lawyer couldn't do much for me. He managed to get me a few hours of supervised access a month but that wasn't good enough for me. I started researching at the public and law library. For two years I spent every single day learning the law. At the same time I was trying to make my own life as flawless as possible so I could win custody. I didn't have a chance of getting custody living in a tiny apartment on welfare.

Deer-o-che: Were you on welfare before the children were taken away?

C. Rae: I was a registered nurse and I was on medical employment insurance. After the children were taken I started a nurse re-certification course I could do at home. It took me 18 months but I completed it and will be able to re-register now.

Deer-o-che: In the last three years you researched law so you could represent yourself, did a university course at home, and studied social service standards?

C. Rae: I had to keep busy. I had my first child when I was 17 and my fifth when I was 25. You don't have 5 children by accident. Living without them broke my heart; killed my spirit. The first two months were the worst. I spent every minute crying, and all I wanted to do was sleep. There was no reason to get out of bed. I kept thinking, 'Why did God do this to me'? To make the situation seem all the worse, I had a hysterectomy when I was 25 and can never have another child. I could not stand to think of a life with no children. Every minute felt like a thousand years. If I did get out of bed, all I did was stare at their pictures in silence. I was too poor to have a phone or T.V., I had no money to go anywhere and I didn't have any family around me at the time.

Deer-o-che: How did you get through the depression?

C. Rae: Two months after the children were taken I met my partner Alvin. If it wasn't for him, I don't think I ever would have healed. After weeks of crying everyday, Alvin just said, "Stop feeling sorry for yourself. What good are you to the kids that way?" At first I thought he was cold-hearted but he dragged me out of the house, he showed me how to learn my rights and he stood up for me until I was strong enough to do it myself. He came to every court date, he met with the social workers and lawyers every time I did. He pushed me to get out of bed and when I was too weak to do something, he did it for me. The first several times I was in a courtroom, I was so timid I couldn't speak. The judge never knew the real story. Alvin kept telling me I had to speak up for myself. He sat in the courtroom and that alone gave me enough strength to start speaking up. That's when things started to go better. Alvin still supports what I do but I don't need him to be in the courtroom anymore. Alvin studied the laws and together we were able to win custody of my oldest daughter last year. I owe everything I have today to Alvin. I will never forget how much he has done for my children. He didn't even know the children and he didn't know me. I could've been the worst mother for all he knew but he believed me and he believed that my kids and I needed each other. He could have easily walked away at any time.

Deer-o-che: So you now have custody of one child, you have finished your course so you can make an income, and you have a relationship with the other four children. Are you planning to go back to court?

C. Rae: I intended to apply for full-custody but I wanted everything to be perfect so the judge couldn't possibly deny me custody. For 4 months, my ex was allowing the children to come over every week and the children and I loved it. The grandmother started saying things like, 'I don't like you kids. I'm not doing anything for you until you stop visiting your mom.' She started arranging exciting plans for weekends so the children wouldn't want to come with me and wouldn't let them call me from 'her' phone. When grandma was away on holidays, my ex left the children unattended late at night. The kids called me because they were scared. Now they only see me twice a month as punishment for calling. So I applied for full-custody and Alvin served my ex-husband with papers. We hope the children are living with us before summer. They live with so much abuse. The thought of them staying there is all the motivation I need.

Deer-o-che: Thank you for sharing that story and good-luck.

This story illustrates that research and statistics shouldn't be enough to take a child. Social services is supposed to provide support but they don't. Family Services spends the majority of their funding on foster homes. They don't support children after age 19 and foster homes are temporary shelter. What happens to a child after their 19th birthday? What happens to children who leave foster care before they're 19? Some children end up on the street as a result of crippling emotional damage. Children are depending on us to stop the pain. One child on the street is one too many. Children with broken hearts grow up to lead broken lives.

Are today's psychiatrists skilled enough to mend all of these broken psyches? Find out in the next issue of the Zen Zone News. Write to colleenmasur@hotmail.com

Ferry Privatization Isn't Helping

At 11:30 am on Thursday March 2nd, two bus loads of Quadra Islanders, together with other Gulf Islanders, came to the Legislature to protest their treatment at the hands of B.C. Ferries. Until recently there was a shelter on the Quadra ferry car deck to accommodate the disabled, the infirm, and parents with very young children who can't climb up the stairs to the lounge. When it was removed for deck repairs, ferries C.E.O. Hahn promised it would be replaced, but he reneged on his promise and demanded $300,000 for a different shelter. No changes were needed. The shelter was approved by transport Canada.

The islanders wanted some modest improvements to the terminal but Hahn proposed a 1.5 million dollar terminal nobody wants. He expects the islanders to pay for both of these. He wants to do away with discount fare ticketbooks, and replace them with swipe cards which have to be renewed monthly whether all the allotted trips have been used or not, all islanders will be required to buy them! Fares have gone up 37% over three years, 17% in the last five months. On the Kuyper/Thetis run schedules have been reduced. Hahn only discussed all this with the Liberal Transport Minister Falcon was too busy to speak to them. The islanders have filed a human rights complaint.

Ferry workers, folks alerted by the Victoria Labour Council, and many from the Communities Solidarity Coalition were on hand with signs and noise makers to support the islanders.

We deplore this new assault on the disadvantaged of Quadra Island. It is another example of the inhumane money grabbling international corporate agenda we must struggle against with all we've got.

Submitted by Don Startin

Partners, Booze, & You

Dear Readers,

It's Red Again.

You who had read anything I've written about realize that what you are about to read, realize these are my own observations with no influence from no one thank you.

As a person who lived on and off the streets in different cities all across Canada, I've been in, have seen and been in a lot of wonderful, dreadful and deadly situations. But I'm grateful that I'm still here.

Being born and raised in Toronto, I've had lots of time to observe people of all ages, race, color, & religion. As soon as I became of legal age I was already a drunk. My parents drank all the time (mom only when dad didn't have anyone to drink with). So I started early and it hasn't slowed down that much but I came to realize what booze can do to people. I've met some friends and made some enemies all because of the bottle. I've been and seen all types of situations that would make most people think that weird but you must remember that alcoholics are people just like yourselfs but booze gives them a measure of self confidence, so they think of themselves just as good as you are. I remember as a kid how my dad would hit my mom and I couldn't do anything to stop him. But as I got older I realized I grew up just like him all because of booze.

Now that I've been through it, I've noticed what I've been going through is that I'm not alone. But I'm still trying to be the best I can.

I've noticed a lot of dangerous differences between some men and women I know have been friends since I first got to town. And I've realized most of the changes are really like I'm living in a city that's like any other one I've lived in. Victoria is a friendly place to life.

Now I may seem like a bum but I just try to get by. I try to trust people the same as I would like to be treated. So booze is a problem for myself and I think a few I see on the streets aren't only trying to get by themselves. So I may not be a member of any type of booze club organizations, booze for myself helps me try and realize that I'm trying to live a peaceful existence.

Thanks for listening to my story and also I hope to write some more letters to help people realize we're all just getting by the best we can.

Submitted by Red

Never Again?

In 1914 a group of miners and their families were burned alive in the tents of their strike camp. This horrendous event occurred after months of prolonged terror upon the striking employees [slaves] of the Colorado based company. Hundreds slaughtered by rounds fired from a gatling gun mounted on the roof of an armoured car, and hundreds more shot by the National Guard. Finally ending when the army was called in and managed a surrender by the strikers, deceptively offering them phoney promises of justice. These events written about by Howard Zinn and others as well as immortalized in song by Woody Guthrie are often far more common in our history than we would like to recognize. This atrocity, coined the Ludlow Massacre is only one in a gruesome history of lies and murder. This was a war on American citizens by their own government.

In retrospect I perhaps should have been less surprised. This was not new to me, I had read about many sickening war crimes perpetrated or supported by the U.S.A.'s Government. Henry Ford in particular along with the government and many other cut throat multi nationals gave continued support, including financial support, to the Nazi Party of Germany and the Fascist Party of Italy right up until the U.S. finally was forced to join the war as their economic interests were being threatened. After Hitler was deposed many of the multi nationals returned to financially supporting the Nazis. Atrocities continued from Viet Nam to Nicaragua where the United States was even condemned by the World Court for "unlawful use of force" in 1985. American terror can easily be followed from Kennedy, through Reagan, Bush Sr., Clinton, to the current Bush Administration (comprised of many former Reaganites), ranging from Columbia, to Uganda, Afghanistan, and Turkey. The repeated rape of women in Bosnia by Serbian soldiers and ethnic cleansing that started in the early 90's and other crimes like the gassing of the Kurd's by Saddam Hussein with American money and weapons, supported and even praised at the time by the American government, in the 80's, are not unique, the Ludlow Massacre really hit home for me… Perhaps because it was so close to home.

Unfortunately, even this is not that unique… American history is full of such actions, especially during the labour and civil rights movements. It wasn't that long ago when the army was called in on their own people and deployed in Mendocino County to fight the drug war (same excuse given for many of the American war crimes in other countries).

To be fair though, we can not place the blame exclusively on the United States, at least not without ignoring our own record. We must look in the mirror, and recognize our roles in the terrible history of war and terrorism. For many Canadians this is rather a difficult and ugly suggestion, as it involves potential tarnishing of our national image. Even worse, it may involve the realization that we are not that different from our neighbors to the south, from which we take so much pride in that differentiation. It is much harder to accept that these things happen when we can no longer distance ourselves from the responsibility. But to say that Canada played a role in these atrocities is a gross understatement. More accurately, many of these terrible crimes would not have been possible without our participation. We even have our own version of Guantanamo Bay (the Security Certificate Program) complete with secret trials and political prisoners being held indefinitely with no charges, and denied access to phone or family. And not only did Canada play a vital role in the overthrow of elected leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide but we also continued to have R.C.M.P. officers and troops in Haiti to "assist Haitian police in restoring democracy." According to reports from refugees and even some returning police, this entailed repeatedly assaulting poor people and supporters of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as to ensure the American candidate won in the election that kept being postponed.

So when we use the phrase close to home, perhaps we should be asking some questions… Perhaps we should be asking why Canadian Peace Keepers carry machine guns? Or maybe we should be asking what consequences our continued involvement may hold for Canada in future generations… The Taliban has already given us warning of what will come if we continue to support the Americans in their Oil Wars. And I am sure even worse will come if we don't remove the blinders of our own international affairs. Maybe what we should be asking is how much humane life is worth to us? Is it worth it to have cheap coffee, chocolate, sugar and low priced sweatshop goods? Are these things worth all those human lives, as well as our security, our safety and potentially our freedom?

So how do we stop this? Noam Chomsky suggests "There is a really easy way to stop terrorism; stop participating in it." He also claims that public opinion has become the world's second super power. While the corporate mainstream media may not be reporting protest and activism, as they also don't report these horrifying crimes, global activism and protest as well as how informed the public are, are all at an all time high! So there is hope. But hope lies in direct action, not in party politics. Not one of the federal leaders mentioned stopping the rigging of elections in Haiti or the security certificate program, or pulling troops out of other countries… This was not in their campaign platforms... In fact you would be hard pressed to even find mention of any of this by any of the federal party leaders or members, beside a single line comment questioning the support in Haiti by Jack Layton a couple years back in one letter to a fellow politician. We can not rely on corporate leaders to do what is right for you or me or for our children of future generations, their record speaks for it's self. If I were to go as far as to suggest that the government itself has historically been the primary source of rape, murder torture and violence, against civilians, I would not be the first.

I don't know what they really meant at the end of WWII, when they said "NEVER AGAIN!" Perhaps they meant never again will we pay attention to our crimes and the crimes of others, or never again will we care… But I do know what they will be saying at the end of WWIII if we don't bring change soon…

NEVER AGAIN WILL WE BE ABLE TO IGNORE RESPONSIBILITY!

Submitted by Conrad Fletcher

common route

this weather soaks
to the bone
and the trees are falling
like punters at last call, so
lets play God
and go ahead
and clean the slate-
the only item on today's schedule is
kicking those shit-head
city officials
right in the pants pocket.
threaten 'em
in an unmistakable way
make 'em ante-up for
some panel board, hammers
and glue
get a crew together
setting up toll booths
on either end
of the downtown core
for foot and motor traffic
alike
from Hillside to Dallas Rd.
all along Government.
you wanna hump the concrete
in my neighbourhood, bubba
you gotta pay the fee
make it a stiff one
those Suburanite slobs got the loot
Industries' got no choice
the dealers make good cake and
busts are great for business so
the cops should have to pay double.
get a real collection going
pull funds back
from the ass-grab bureaucrats to give
over to the Bread and Roses gang
throw bedrolls and blankets up
into one of those big 'ol
abandoned buildings
'cause a wad of cash can make
the zone codes disappear
like nothing else.
get the kids and kittnens
rain slicked thug punks
and those who fell
thru the holes
along the Garden road
in
and off the street
for good.
if nothing else
at least bring it up
over your next
$5.00 latte.
point the Gun
in the right direction
and the Money will always
follow.

j fisher - bathtubbing@hotmail.com

What Is All This Stuff About Heaven?

So what is it – in all of this stuff – about heaven?
Only heaven knows.
It's all about a state of mind – one would think.
Isn't it here – that we're at – after all?
One would think this thing about eternity
Would be taken one step at a time
And here the mind goes sometimes
Who knows?
And where the heart goes sometimes
Who would've guessed?
Don't know what the day brings
Or the images
That may spring from the head or the heart
But for some … that is truly and oddly all full of dread.
Don't know what will spring out of talk – or the sidewalk
And who really knows tomorrow's score
In the internet headlines … or in gossip
But who can forecast
The surprise at the door?
And who knows how one can react
To being called Infidel
Agnostics wear horns in some comic books
One supposes
But without bread and roses
Where are we?
On the cusp
Of some very dark dawn
Of no tomorrow
Maybe … I'm agnostic.
But sea sky and earth still seem … so good to me.
The stars can just wait … until we live there.

© Paul Burnside, February 3rd, 2006
Paul's writings are available at Dark Horse Books, 623 Johnson St.

A Bike ! A Bike !

A bike ! A bike ! My Island for a bike !
Oh, that the sweetest lanes and mountaintops
Should not with foul assault be shaven,
Worthlessly to fall from glorious gold
Into the lost debris of myths that once were golden.
For doth this Island that we love so much
Touch not the very heavens with its grace ?
Do not the eagles e'en look down with joy
As in its air they spire their ancient dance ?
What fools be we if, in our late arriving,
We do destroy the place of our arrival
Burying deep its heart, its soul
In the rubble of our building ?
Such is the brilliance of excess,
The wisdom that can only see
Delight in a supermarket trolley,
Not a tree.

Bring then a bike, a train, a humble bus
That we should change this climate in our souls,
Before we burn the very planet on our coals.
This appetite will be the death of us.

A bike ! A tram ! A rollerblade !
Than pave this heaven someone made.
Take hence this thing that's hagged its might
Into the mare of all our nights.

In place of haste and rush and greed
Let's place sweet limits on our speed,
And in constraint, let's say a prayer
For bikes - God bless them, everyw here.

Guy Dauncey, 1998
guydauncey@earthfuture.com

U.S. OUT OF NORTH AMERICA

Is there a way to end this growing poverty wall? We must learn to live and give, and heed the master's call. Dedicated to Jesus Christ the sole abolisher of poverty of the soul.

Spare Any Change?

As I walk downtown from time to time, I encounter people and try to make this rhyme. Standing, sitting, lying down, all kinds of people, many wearing a frown! I wonder, are they friend or foe? That all depends on whether you can spare some dough! They are a growing minority, some even end up dead!

Spare any change? Do you have a smoke? Have you any rolling papers or do you have a toke? Throw some change in my case, then ... I'll join the human race!

Is this a cry for help? A chant? An anthem? A devious rhyme (crime)? Brother can you spare a dime?

A definite sign of the times. Rich bureaucrats get richer and governments cut. Which means these guys will kick some butts!

As the more deprived gather cigarette butts some with frisk or even roll a tourist, a yuppie, or even a troll! Come on people, you can act now! Do you want a sharing caring city, or a vast slum? That many welcome.

Spare any Change?

Submitted by Mark Joseph Isczak, originally published in the summer of '95.

We Act...

Because *FOOD* is a *RIGHT* not a privilege!
Because there is enough food for everyone to eat!
Because *SCARCITY* is a *LIE*!
Because a woman should not have to use her body to get a meal, or to have a place to sleep!
Because when we are hungry or homeless we have the right to get what we need by panning, busking or squatting!
Because *POVERTY* is a form of *VIOLENCE* not necessary or natural!
Because capitalism makes food a source of profit not a source of nutrition!

Because Food Grows on Trees.

Because we need *COMMUNITY* not *CONTROL*!
Because we need HOMES not JAILS!
Because we need...

FOOD NOT BOMBS

ACT

Submitted by Food Not Bombs, Victoria. collaboratively written in 1993.

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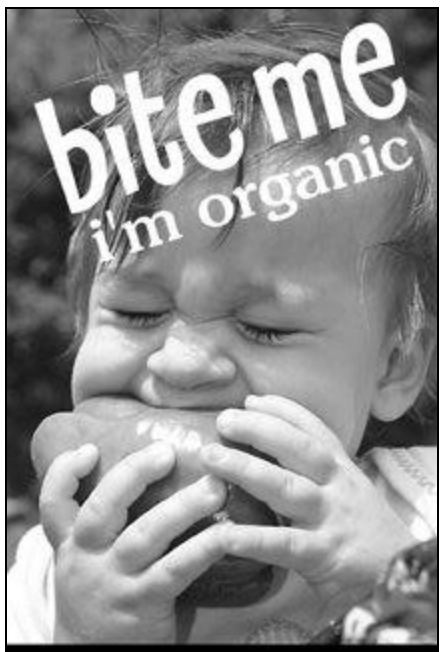

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spud.ca

the organic store to your door

North Park BICYCLE SHOP

1725 Quadra St, 250-386-2453
info@northparkbikeshop.com

Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team

John

Ted & B-OK

John

Robin

Shirley

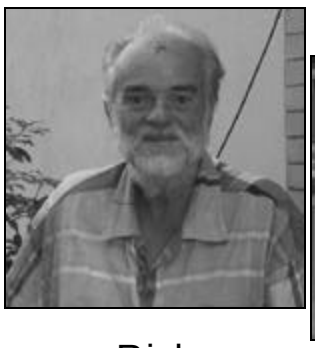
Join us!!

Or just drop in to say hello.

We meet Tuesdays & Fridays 10-noon at the Solstice Café, or in Market Square

Debbie

Ken


Rick

Marlene

Janine

counting the beans

	Oct/Nov	Dec/Jan	Feb/Mar
Operating Revenue			
Coordinator's Revenue			
Advertising (payment rec'd)	0.00	160.00	0.00
Paper Sales (from vendors)	844.50	1304.50	838.50
Donations	245.00	422.30	560.00
Subscriptions	60.00	240.00	0.00
Salary from B & R	1200.00	1400.00	1200.00
Belfry Bottle Return	0.00	38.00	35.85
Total Coordinator's Revenue	**2349.50**	**3564.80**	**2634.35**
B&R Revenue (deposited)			
Advertising	375.00	150.00	0.00
Donations	200.00	65.00	710.00
Subscriptions	40.00	120.00	0.00
Grant Monies	0.00	1500.00	0.00
Total B&R Rev. (deposited)	**615.00**	**1835.00**	**710.00**
Total Operating Revenue	**2349.50**	**3564.80**	**2634.35**
Operating Expenses			
Coordinator's Expenses			
Paper & Printing Costs	904.65	1044.15	952.04
Office expenses	85.40	85.40	175.40
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	44.76	70.90	148.00
Community reciprocity	95.00	176.49	209.00
Bike Cart	0.00	269.53	0.00
Unpaid Debts	0.00	56.00	20.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	**1129.81**	**1702.47**	**1504.44**
B & R Expenses			
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	105.00	105.00	105.00
fm City of Vic Grant	100.00	100.00	100.00
fm Vancity Grant	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
fm KAIROS Grant	100.00	100.00	0.00
fm PSAC Grant	0.00	0.00	100.00
fm donations/subscriptions	0.00	200.00	0.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	**1305.00**	**1505.00**	**1305.00**
Total Operating Expenses	**2434.81**	**3207.47**	**2809.44**
Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses *(- is out of pocket, + is salary)*	-85.31	357.33	-175.09

Vancity

THANKS to these generous supporters!!

PSAC AFPC workingforcanadians.ca

THE CITY OF VICTORIA

THRIFTY FOODS smiles every day

www.vancity.com www.psac-afpc.org www.city.victoria.bc.ca thriftyfoods.com

Advertising Policy

1. Street Newz will not promote the sale of humans, their sexual services or products. We won't print images of people as sexual objects, or animals being tortured.

2. Street Newz will give priority space to earth friendly, peace oriented, local community organizations and businesses that are not affiliated with any one political party.

Contact us at 413-3235 or streetnewz@islandnet.com
Rates (negotiable):

Biz card sizeish: $30/ea or $150 for 6 issues (non-profit: $25/ea or $125 for 6)

1/4 page: $60/ea or $300 for 6 issues (non-profit: $50/ea or $250 for six)

1/2 page: $100/ea or $500 for 6 issues (non-profit: $75/ea or $375 for six)

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Sustaining the Street Newz

While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, other contributions sustain our production team. Every little bit helps a lot! A subscription ($20 or more/yr) is an excellent gift for you, or a friend.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State_____

Postal/Zip: _____

Ph/email: _____

☐ *Deliver to me, at the address above!*
☐ *Deliver to my friend, at the address here:*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State_____

Postal/Zip: _____

Ph/email: _____

Please make cheques payable to Janine Bandcroft, or the Victoria Street Newz.
1027 Pandora Ave., Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P6

Thanks for your support!!

A Great Big Thank You!!

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This newzpaper wouldn't be the same without you!